

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, June 26, 2014

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What's On

Blockbuster musical summer is under way

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Council to consider property sitter plan

PAID house-sitters may be used in empty buildings to deter vandals and thieves under plans being considered by Sandwell Council.

Swapping security guards for temporary tenants could save up to £18,000 in one borough property alone, bosses at Sandwell Council claim.

They are now considering the scheme, which would see people occupying empty council buildings for a small fee.

Costly

It would aim to stop empty buildings from being vandalised, set on fire or stripped of wiring and metal, without having to rely on costly 24-hour security companies.

Similar schemes are in operation in other parts of the country and see tenants placed in former offices and factories that are altered to accommodate them.

A report going before councillors today outlines two firms currently offering the service, who claim tenants can live in the empty buildings, from old schools to factories and shops, for around £35 to £60 a week.

The buildings are fitted with communal showers and kitchen facilities and the fee includes utility bills and council tax.

Collision girl is recovering

A GIRL is in hospital recovering from serious injuries after she was knocked down by a car in Old Hill on Saturday afternoon.

The accident happened on Station Road at around 2.40pm.

John Hawker, of West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "The pedestrian, a girl believed to be 13, suffered serious head injuries. The girl was transferred to Birmingham Children's Hospital."

Anyone with information can call police on 101.

ANGER OVER CAR PARK PRICE HIKE

Negotiate plea after union vote for strike

A HIKE in car parking charges in Dudley has come under fire from the opposition Tory group leader, who says the borough should bring in a free parking experiment instead.

The move is expected to boost cash-strapped council coffers by £100,000 a year.

Meanwhile, Dudley North MP Ian Austin is stepping up his campaign to stop a parking charge hike at hospital car parks, which he fears could be used to plug a black hole in NHS funding.

Dudley Council is putting up the cost of pay and display parking across the borough from Sunday in a move that will affect all council run pay and display car parks. Those with parking season tickets will also be hit with a price rise.

Increase

At Stourbridge's Ryemarke car park drivers will see charges rise from £1 an hour to £1.10 and those leaving vehicles in Penzer Street, Kingswinford, will see the price increase from 50p and hour to 60p. A £390 12-month season ticket will go up to £460, a rise of 15 per cent.

The increase in charges will bring in £100,000 a year while the council needs to make £34 million of cuts over the next three years.

The move has been attacked by opposition leader, Councillor Patrick Harley. He claimed that if the Conservatives were running the council an 18-month trial of free short-stay parking would be brought in and a review carried out on long-stay parking.

"At a time shops and businesses need our help in these towns, the council is giving another reason for

by Alex Ross and Daniel Wainwright

shoppers to stay away by increasing charges," he said.

"I hear so many times people saying they want to pull up in places like King'swinford to shop but then don't have the change. I'd want a trial of free parking for three hours. We need to take a gamble."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, the council's cabinet member for transportation, defended the increase.

He said: "Car parking charges this year have risen in line with the agreed budget strategy for 2014/15, which still leaves us as one of the cheapest places to park in the Black Country."

Labour's Mr Austin said he was concerned vulnerable people could pay the price of budget short falls if hospital bosses put up parking rates. Mr Austin added he was "keen to ensure regulations are put in place to avoid rapid rises as hospitals come under increased financial pressure."

South Staffordshire Tory MP Gavin Williamson, who represents Kinver, said such charges should be scrapped.

It can cost up to £5.50 to park at Russells Hall Hospital. The rate for 24 hour parking at Sandwell General and Rowley Regis hospitals is £5.10.

Bravery and sacrifices will be honoured



Master of ceremonies Tom Trickett is calling for people to celebrate Armed Forces Day at Himley Hall on Sunday PARADES and exhibitions will be held across the Black Country this weekend to mark Armed Forces Day.

Gatherings taking place to remember the sacrifices made by members of the forces in conflicts across the years will be particularly poignant this year as 2014 marks the centenary of the start of the First World War.

Armed Forces Day, formerly known as Veterans Day, is on Saturday from 11am when serving members of the Armed Forces will parade through Oldbury to mark the occasion.

One of the biggest events is at Himley Hall near Dudley on Sunday

when veterans will be presented with HM Armed Forces veterans badges, including those who served on Arctic Convoys and in the Bomber Command during the Second World War.

As well as an exhibition of First World War memorabilia at Himley Hall on Sunday there will be a re-enactment of soldiers going off to war.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Margaret Aston said: "We'll never really know the extent of what our armed forces personnel had to endure during the First World War but it is important we all remember how hard they fought for their country's freedom, not

only for their own but future generations too.

"It is only right that we pay special tribute to all those who served and fell in the war and share the memories with today's generation at our armed forces event so they are never forgotten."

Highlights on the day include an RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast by a Spitfire, which will fly over the hall at around 2pm, weather permitting. The event will run from 11am and will include children's entertainment including a zip wire, go-karts, climbing wall and trampolines.

A MAN has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a teenage girl suffered a knife wound to her chest in an early morning incident in Brierley Hill.

Police say the 16-year-old girl was taken to hospital following a scuffle at around 4.30am on Friday in Stourbridge Road, Brierley Hill.

She had a minor puncture to the chest.

A 36-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and then released on bail.

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HALESOWEN CHRONICLE

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Stadium's revamp is hit by delays

A £17,000 improvement of Dudley's main sports stadium has hit delays caused by an equipment fault and the heavy rain disrupting work.

The running track at the Dell Stadium, in Pensnett, was closed last month for repairs and maintenance to take place.

It was expected to re-open earlier this month but Dudley Council has confirmed this had been put back

until the end of the month. Officials blamed the delay on heavy rain which disrupted work. Specialist equipment used by the contractor has also broken down.

Cabinet member for health and well-being Councillor Rachel Harris said: "The heavy rain we have had in recent weeks has caused delays with the cleaning of the running track at the Dell Stadium. There

is also a fault with the contractor's specialist equipment.

"We are working closely with them to get this work done as quickly as we can. We are hoping to have the track ready for use by the end of June.

"We are also speaking to athletics clubs who use the track to keep them informed of progress."

Hundreds of people use the sta-

dium in Bryce Road every week and Dudley and Stourbridge Harriers athletics club use the stadium for training. Club chairman David Eades said: "It's caused some disruption. We only applied to have two or three home meetings this season because of the work taking place. Our next one is the beginning of July but that is starting to look doubtful."

Thug is jailed for robbery in street

A THUG who decided to 'de-stress' after a row with his girlfriend by carrying out a violent robbery on strangers on a town centre street has been jailed for nine months.

Lee Cartwright attacked blameless pair Sebastian Bartlett and Reece Jenkins as they walked through Stourbridge late at night on April 12. The 23-year-old grabbed the young men, who had been on a night out, and warned: 'Give me your phone and wallet or I will knock you out.'

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told he took £10 from Mr Bartlett and punched Mr Jenkins in the face. Cartwright, from Brompton Drive, Brierley Hill, pleaded guilty to robbery and attempted robbery.

He was sent to prison by Judge Michael Challinor who said: "Robberies like this make ordinary people reluctant to go out at night."

The attacker, whose six previous convictions had not involved violence, told police: "I had an argument with my girlfriend and needed to de-stress."

Miss Blondelle Thompson, defending, said: "He was so horrified by his behaviour that he went straight to his doctor and was put on a drugs misuse programme."

Garden will aid charities

A LUSH garden will be opened to the public to raise cash for charity next week.

The event will take place in 13 Lansdowne Road, Hurst Green, Halesowen, on Sunday, July 6, between 12.30pm and 5.30pm.

Visitors to the garden will also be able to enjoy water features, mixed borders and shaded areas.

The event is taking place as part of the National Garden Scheme. It supports a number of causes including cancer charities. There will be plants for sale and teas available. The garden raised nearly £1,000 last year.

Allowance at risk

A SCHOOL clothing allowance which helps some of the poorest families in Sandwell pay for uniforms could be scrapped as part of budget cuts. Sandwell Council is looking at reducing or withdrawing the funding for the scheme in 2015/16 in a bid to make savings.

Sex offender breached order with library jobs

A CONVICTED sex offender from Dudley breached a protection order by working at libraries, a court heard.

Former school technician Kevin Lowe, 52, was convicted in 2009 of having more than 2,000 indecent images of children on computers at his home.

He was given a 10-year sexual offenders protection order and banned from working with children. He was ordered to undergo three years' supervision and put on the sex offenders list for five years.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that he found work at various libraries in Birmingham between April and December last year.

Danger

Mr Mark Rees, prosecuting, said that when interviewed by police, Lowe accepted that the positions would have put him in contact with children.

Mr Regan Peggs, defending Lowe, said: "There was never any possibility of him being alone with any children. It would appear there was very little risk of any harm being done whatsoever. He didn't realise when he applied for the job in libraries that he was placing himself in such danger."

Mr Peggs added that Lowe, of Stourbridge Road, had applied for the temporary library positions because of his 'bookishness'.

The court heard that Lowe, who lost his job at High Arcal School in Sedgley following his original conviction, told his arresting officers that he did not believe he had breached the order.

Judge Michael Challinor said Lowe displayed 'breathtaking arrogance'.

Lowe pleaded guilty to a charge of breaking the terms of his sexual offenders order. He was sentenced to nine months jail suspended for 22 months and ordered to pay £250 costs.

Trash mountain still stands tall

The huge mound of rubbish at the former recycling firm in Brierley Hill, as seen from Moor Street

PILED high and with vegetation sprouting from it, this huge mound of waste remains an eyesore in Brierley Hill.

Environment Agency admits it is unsure anything has moved in the past three months.

A spokesman said: "To our knowledge, no material has been removed since Mr McNaughton was released from prison."

"We are still monitoring the situation and we've stopped the company operating. It is still our intention to make those responsible pay for the action necessary. The legal process is complex but we will continue to pursue the outcome residents would want to see."

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Clock is put in storage while new home found

A CLOCK has been moved as its traditional town centre location faces an uncertain future.

The cast-iron pillar clock at Lye's Pocket Park, behind High Street, and is one of the town's best-known landmarks.

Dudley Council has confirmed the clock created to celebrate Lye's heritage has been placed in storage.

Bosses from the authority are now asking residents for their opinion on where the clock should be located.

The council has been forced to make the move as the future of the site is now being reconsidered by its owner.

The previous owner had allowed the council to refurbish the land as a public space back in the 1980s, complete with benches and the clock.

The benches will also be moved to the nearby Butterfly Children's Centre.

The clock will be stored by Lye firm Boro Foundry, where the piece was originally cast after being designed by borough artist Steve Field.

Residents can make a suggestion for the clock by e-mailing dudleycouncil-plus@dudley.gov.uk or calling 0300 555 2345.

Three on lead theft charges

THREE men accused of stealing lead from the roof of a care home in Halesowen are to appear in court.

Police were called to Halesowen Project for the Elderly on Queensway after a passerby spotted a group of men using ladders to get to the roof on May 27.

Three men were arrested and charged with theft. Mark Bilsby, aged 49 from Nappersfield Road, Brierley Hill, David Fletcher, 21 from Junction Road, Lye and Jamie Bourne, 34 and also from Junction Road, Lye, will appear before Dudley Magistrates on July 15.

Nordic walks

WALKERS can step up the pace with fitness sessions at a park this summer.

Dudley Council is offering free Nordic walking classes at The Leasowes in Halesowen every Thursday. Beginners are invited to join in the 6 to 7pm session, advanced walkers at 5.30pm.

Heroin addict, 25, preyed on the elderly

A BOGUS workman who targeted elderly victims in a string of burglaries has been jailed for five years.

Samuel Davey stole cash and personal documents from the homes of his victims, some aged in their 80s and 90s, in Halesowen and Dudley.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week that 25-year-old, of Snowdon Grove, Halesowen, had posed as a window cleaner and told another victim he was fixing a fence before stealing money in two distraction burglaries.

Police tracked him down after his DNA

was found on towels and a pen at their properties.

Mr Nicholas Burn, prosecuting, said Davey had appeared inside the home of a 93-year-old in Halesowen, on April 24 and told her he was fixing a fence for the next door neighbour. After he left, she realised he had taken her handbag containing around £40 in cash.

He had targeted the home of an 85-year-old woman in Halesowen less than a month before. Davey asked her if she wanted her windows cleaned and claimed he needed to come into the house to measure up the windows.

The court heard that he had also ransacked the home of a 62-year-old in Lower Gornal last November while she had been out, stealing her passport, birth certificate, medication, mobile phone and headphones.

Davey's DNA was found on towels at two of the properties and on the pen lent to him

by one of the victims, which he had chewed. He pleaded guilty to three counts of burglary. In mitigation, Ms Amanda Tomkins said he had been a drug user for around five years and had spent £60 a day on heroin.

Handing Davey a five-year prison sentence, Judge Michael Challinor told him he had targeted elderly people 'deliberately' and 'systematically'.

He told him: "The elderly are always very traumatised by burglary."

"They feel vulnerable in their homes. The impact upon them is very significant."

NEWS in brief

Valley's project is getting £58k

THE Veolia Environmental Trust has given out a total of £58,000 for projects in the Black Country. Woodsetton Charitable Trust will get a £31,000 to create footpaths and a bridge in Swanbrook Valley. Other grants will go to the Oak Tree Centre in Oldbury and Holy Trinity Church in West Bromwich.

Don Davies, of Woodsetton Charitable Trust, said: "It will enable us to improve the valley for its many visitors, including people with disabilities."

Pupils learn about glass heritage

PUPILS from three schools stepped back in time to learn what life was like a century ago when glassmaking was at its peak in Stourbridge.

Ashwood Park Primary, Ridge Primary and St James Primary pupils took part in a National Heritage Lottery Young Roots project, joining role play with Black Country theatre group The Fizzogs at Glasshouse College in Amblecote and travelling by narrowboat to Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone.

Beauty evening is a boost for charity

MORE than £1,700 has been raised for charity during a glamorous evening held at a beauty salon.

Guests were given the red carpet treatment at the event at Scratch Nail Studio and Beauty Salon, in Oldswinford. The Hagley Road salon owned by Chantel Welyaert, 24, held the event to raise money for a cystic fibrosis charity because one of her friends has the chronic illness.

Canal visitor hub scheme backed

BOSSES at Dudley Canal Trust are celebrating after securing £60,000 of funding towards their new Port-a-pot project.

The money, from The Headley Trust, will be released to the trust over the next two years and will help the project seeking to create a new visitor centre beside the canal in Dudley.

Sea cadets' fun day

MEMBERS of Sandwell Sea Cadets have planned the charity day at the Sir Robert Peel pub, in Birmingham Road, Blackheath, on July 12. Raffles, prize giveaways and games will take place from 1pm.

Developer funds warden to care for nature area

A WARDEN will be employed to manage a conservation site in Halesowen for the first time with the help of a £60,000 cash grant.

They will work to preserve 12 acres of land at the Coombs Wood Green Wedge after a 50-year lease was agreed for the site.

St Modwen has signed the agreement with Dudley Council following the developer being granted permission to build new homes on the site of the former Coombs Wood Cricket Club.

It was replaced by a new clubhouses built on part of the Green Wedge. As well as leasing the 12 acres to the council, St Modwen has agreed to invest £60,000 to support the recruitment and employment of a warden to look after the area. They will have responsibility for ensuring it is maintained and remains an attractive place for residents to visit.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor at St Modwen, said: "We have undertaken a number of projects in the Coombs Wood area of Halesowen that show our commitment to enhance amenities for local residents.

This has included the creation of a new sports and social club, securing the future of Coombs Wood Cricket Club.

"This latest initiative will make a huge difference to people living locally and will help to support access to open space and natural environments."

Dudley regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "This land is an important green environment. The longer-term retention of this space and partnership with St Modwen will help support our aim to deliver open green spaces for existing and future residents."

All of the events are free and people are advised to reserve seats for the Dudley and Netherton events.

Dudley Library is on (01384) 815560 and Netherton Library (01384) 812845.

The cricket club HQ was built on land off Stewarts Road.

Caring nurse Kate really is a cut above



District nurse Kate Owen, Queen's Nurse award winner, has her hair cut off helped by fellow fundraiser Tracey Cooper

A DISTRICT in Dudley has proved she is a cut above by donating her hair to charity.

In all the mother-of-two, who has been a nurse in Dudley for 20 years, lost ten inches of hair during the fund-raising event at the Dudley Arms in Himley, which managed to raise £800 thanks to sponsorship and also a vintage tea party and, raffle.

Kate said: "I wanted to do something for the charity after I found out about Jack."

"I also work with a lot of cancer patients and I understand the impact it has on lives."

"I am so pleased with how it went, we managed to raise a lot of money and we all had fun."

The 40-year-old from Kingswinford has another reason to celebrate after being given the title of Queen's Nurse by the Queen's Nursing Institute award for her work setting up community clinics at Brierley Hill Health and Social Care Centre. Her team has taken strain off hospitals with an oncology clinic helping cancer patients and an antibiotic clinic.

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YOU can't help noticing how many of the second-hand volumes in the Beer church book stall are do-it-yourself manuals. The connection, presumably, is that the name of Our Saviour is uttered more often in DIY than in just about any other human endeavour, and certainly with feeling. There is probably more religious language in 20 minutes of plumbing than in a whole Sunday in church.



IF you need proof that the Devonian lifestyle is good for you, look no further than the routine death announcements outside a local funeral director's. This week's dear departed were 93, 97 and 101.



HOW international politics works. Memorandum from the Grand Ayatollah to all citizens of Iran: With effect from 0900 on Monday the stinking, whore-bred spawn of the Great Satan will be known as "our dear friends the American people".



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THE public health advice from the Food Standards Agency is not to wash chickens before you cook them. Damn right. They peck your soap to pieces and get feathers all over the shower.



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A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is being offered by the Denture Clinic.

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Council directors face axe in bid to save £1m

UP to half of the senior managers at Dudley Council will lose their jobs to cut more than £1 million from the staff budget.

Eleven of the 22 department directors and assistant directors are at risk of redundancy at the cash-strapped local authority as the council undertakes a 'major review' of the senior management team.

The first of the senior managers could lose their jobs by the end of the year under **by Andrew Turton**

looking authority, that not only serves our local communities but is also effective at a regional and sub regional level.

But the authority has already predicted there will be a further £23m shortfall over the same period.

Dudley Council's cabinet will consider a report on the senior management restructuring next month.

Modernise

Proposals will have to go out to formal consultation with staff who are directly affected.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks said the authority needed to modernise in the wake of funding cuts from Government. "It is important that we bring forward a management structure that is fit for the 21st century," he said.

"We must have the right people in place so we can become more of an outward

to take up the post.

Funeral date for former mayor



John Woodall pictured during his year as Mayor of Dudley

THE funeral of former Mayor of Dudley John Woodall will be held in Halesowen on Monday.

Mr Woodall retired as Conservative councillor for Halesowen South in May. The former Justice of the Peace, who died last Tuesday aged 80, had served for 24 years in two stints on Dudley Council.

The funeral will be at St John's Church, in High Street, from noon with private cremation attended by family only afterwards.

It is family flowers only but relatives say donations will be gratefully received for the Friends of Leasowes by funeral directors Gaunts and Sons of Blackheath.

Mr Woodall leaves a wife Audrey, two daughters, three grand-daughters and a great-granddaughter.

Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "John was not only a giant of Halesowen community life for many decades but he earned a reputation as also being one of the hardest-working, most dedicated and most helpful people in local politics. He will be enormously missed."

TACKLING problem parking, anti-social behaviour and drug and alcohol-related crime have been outlined as priorities in a new Sandwell police plan.

It will see increased enforcement of parking regulations as well as work to reduce the number of teenagers hanging around the borough's streets.

The new Local Policing and Crime Plan was launched by West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones at St Phillips Primary School in Smethwick. It sets out the plan for community policing in Sandwell over the next 12 months and has been put together following a public consultation.

Deputy leader of Sandwell Council and cabinet member for town and neighbourhood services, Councillor Mahboob Hussain, said the consultation showed that inconsiderate parking was blighting neighbourhoods.

He added: "The local policing and crime plan is a commitment to tackling the concerns of Sandwell residents. The two major concerns raised by residents were issues with teenagers hanging around in certain areas and tackling inconsiderate parking."

Other commitments in the plan include reducing domestic violence and protecting vulnerable people.

Priority list for police is outlined

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WILLENHALL'S Ann Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

A young-at-heart 75-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment,"

she recalls. Recently she was fitted with implant-retained dentures, inspired by a newspaper article on Steven Burchell's work at the Denture Clinic.

She says: "You don't realise how having bad teeth can affect you until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed. I could not have wished for better treatment. My care was first class and Steven has become like family to us."

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"Lower dentures can often be troublesome as stability is compromised by shrinking gums and bone erosion – it's all part of the ageing process. Ill-fitting dentures create painful friction problems on gums and not least, be a source of compromised chewing and embarrassment."

Reduction

Steven adds: "The device can be mounted on upper or lower teeth and because of its efficiency allows us to consider a reduction in the size of the acrylic 'plate' which can result in improved speech and taste."

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Court is to rule on fate of woman in hospital

A 20-year-old woman fighting for her life in a West Midlands hospital will have her fate decided by the Court of Protection after doctors claimed she should be allowed to die.

The woman, who cannot be named, suffers from severe problems including cerebral palsy, curvature of the spine and learning disabilities. Known as AB, she also has type 2 diabetes, epilepsy and recurrent respiratory tract infections.

Currently in a critical care unit run by Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, her doctors believe she should not be given cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

The woman's parents do not support withdrawal of treatment.

Medics believe it is not in the best interests of AB to give her invasive ventilation, CPR or intropes and renal support therapy, should the need arise. Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust have therefore asked the Court of Protection to rule on the matter.

On Tuesday Mrs Justice Theis was given an outline of the case at a preliminary hearing at the Court of Protection in London. She ordered the woman to be kept in a critical care unit until the court had received all the information. A full hearing to decide the matter will be held on 14 July.

A TRUST which manages eight leisure centres and a golf course in the Black Country has received a grant of more than £25,000 to encourage more people to get into sport.

Sandwell Leisure Trust has been awarded the cash by Sport England to fund a project that will offer people the opportunity to try 14 of the 17 sports that make up the programme for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

by Tom Mason

participation for our local community.

"It will allow us to offer enhanced services to local people, support Sandwell's local sports clubs and further develop participation in sports in this area."

Sport England property director Charles Johnston said: "The 13 projects which are being funded in the first year of the campaign have clearly demonstrated their enthusiasm to create projects that directly benefit their local communities."

Brian Leonard, Sparta's CEO said: "By funding projects designed by local trusts and created specifically for local people, the Make Your Move campaign can make a real difference to local people. This, in turn, offers true benefits to these trusts' local communities."

More than 20 fitness classes will also be on offer at community venues across Sandwell. Call 0121 506 4980.

People that want to take a sport or activity further will then be given the opportunity to join a local club.

Paul Slater, Chief Executive of Sandwell Leisure Trust said: "The funding that we have received from Sport England via Sparta's 'Make Your Move' campaign is essential to secure sports'

work is carried out on the £128m extension of the Midland Metro in Bull Street, Birmingham

City Metro extension taking shape



Work is carried out on the £128m extension of the Midland Metro in Bull Street, Birmingham

A LANDMARK moment in the £128 million extension of the Midland Metro in Birmingham has taken place as concrete was poured into the tracks.

It is the second phase of the college redevelopment after construction of a £1.3m maths centre, which opened in September.

Principal Sharon Phillips said: "The new £2.9m arts block will provide state-of-the-art accommodation."

Red Hill route is set to open again

A ROAD which has been partially closed for 18 months after a wall collapsed was due to reopen yesterday.

Work took place after rubble and other debris fell into the roadway in Red Hill, Stourbridge, on Christmas Eve 2012.

Dudley Council bosses were forced to shut the road completely for three months as part of the major clean-up operation.

The route was due to reopen to two-way traffic on Wednesday at 6am after the completion of repairs.

NEWS |
in brief

College arts hub is taking shape

THE construction of a £2.9 million arts centre in Stourbridge to serve hundreds of students is forging ahead with work taking place to install the roof.

The complex which fronts Coventry Street and Duke Street is on track to be completed by the end of October. Once completed it will bring King Edward VI College's information technology, graphics, dance and drama departments under one roof.

It is the second phase of the college redevelopment after construction of a £1.3m maths centre, which opened in September.

Principal Sharon Phillips said: "The new £2.9m arts block will provide state-of-the-art accommodation."

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WHILE sitting in a park recently, I was informed that according to an old wives' tale it is good luck if a pigeon makes a mess on your shoe. Having had a couple of weeks to reflect on this, I have come to the conclusion that this is a myth.

It is bad luck if a pigeon messes on your shoe. But good luck indeed if said pigeon misses and lays a bit flat splot on the traffic warden standing next to you.

□□□□□

OBSERVING that Wayne Rooney's wife was pictured at the airport in Brazil with no fewer than 15 suitcases, somebody remarked on Facebook that 'Coleen Rooney's luggage sums up all that is wrong with English soccer!' On balance, I feel inclined to agree. Except that it wasn't her spare clothes I had in mind.

□□□□□

AND why does every football match now have to be preceded by half an hour's worth of sentimental gush about the players' personal lives?

Gushing tales about how 'grandad was always there for them' and tearful tales about how they want their children to be proud of them. Could you have imagined Nobby Stiles or Geoff Hurst blathering on like that before a must-win game? Of course not. It's supposed to be a sport not the Oprah Winfrey show.

□□□□□

INTERESTING to see that the British and US governments appear to be adopting a policy of 'whoever is my enemy's enemy is my friend' by joining forces with Iran in the fight against the Isis militants in Iraq.

It is of course a policy which has been tried before. Not so long ago, it was Iran's fundamentalist leader Ruholla Khomeini who was public enemy number one, agitating trouble wherever he went, taking his country back to the Middle Ages, calling us 'Little Satan' and ordering his followers to murder a British author, nice friendly stuff like that.

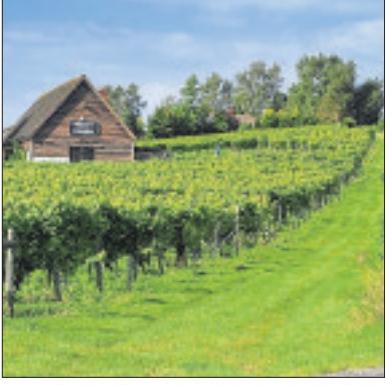
To counter the growing menace that Khomeini was presenting to world peace, the West decided to support his biggest enemy and provided him with weapons to attack Iran. There were concerns that this man too might have one or two murderous habits but he seemed a bit more civilised, and he always dressed nicely whereas Khomeini dressed up like a villain out of one of the Harry Potter films.

His name, of course, was Saddam Hussein. When Khomeini died in 1990, he was no longer our friend.

Maybe it's just down to being a simple 'mon' from the Black Country. But British foreign policy seems a confusing business sometimes.



Martin Vickers in his vineyards with a Rondo vine



Halfpenny Green Vineyard, in Tom Lane, Bobbington



Martin Vickers with assistant winemaker Ben Hunt

Raise a glass to vineyard's success

British wines are now taken seriously due to vineyards such as Halfpenny Green, says JAMES FISHER

ONCE sneered at across the globe, English wine is now being taken very seriously, with local wine-makers taking on – and beating – some of the most established names in the business.

Halfpenny Green Vineyard, in Bobbington, has seen first-hand how attitudes towards homegrown wines have changed during its 30-year history.

Clive Vickers, who co-owns the vineyard and makes the wine, said the resurgence was seeing homegrown wines taking on even those from the famous Champagne region.

Awards

"We've been growing grapes here for 30 years now and going back to the 1980s there was definitely a stigma attached to what we were doing," he said.

"But during the last two or three years, as a country, we have realised we can now make really decent wine, which is now winning awards on a regular basis.

English wine growers across the country are now winning competitions, not just nationally but also internationally.

"Customers are also coming back on a regular basis and not just trying the brands as a one-off."

"Such is the interest we are no longer producing enough wine to deal with the demand."

The vineyard's most popular wines include a medium white, called Black Country Gold, as well as Penny Red, a 12



Martin Vickers with some of the wines on sale in the shop at the vineyard

per cent, medium bodied red. There is even an English sparkling wine to rival the products of Champagne.

Halfpenny scooped a silver award at the Decanter World Wine Awards – the first British producer to ever to receive the honour – for its red wine, Rondo.

The vineyard has expanded from just half an acre to more than 30 acres over the years. It now produces between 50,000 and 70,000 bottles a year, depending on the weather. Halfpenny has even secured contracts to supply stores such as Waitrose.

"We have expanded by a few acres each year and other vineyards give us their grapes to grow because they don't have the room," said Mr Vickers, who opened the vineyard with father, Martin, who still runs the firm.

"We get more deliveries of grapes here than ever before and we continue to learn more about the industry with each year that passes."

"Thirty years ago a lot was down to chance because we were learning as we went."

"But we planted early and worked

out which varieties worked for us. For any new wine growers now all the information is out there for them," added Mr Vickers.

He said the warmer weather in England was also having an impact on the industry with certain grape varieties growing in Britain, which would not previously have survived.

"Whether it's down to climate change is up for debate but the reason there are more vineyards is because of the weather," he said.

"It's arguable whether the weather is improving because of all the rain we've had, which we have to try and deal with.

"But we've got varieties of grapes growing here that would not have survived a generation ago."

"One of the main changes we have seen is from the British public who are enjoying local produce of all varieties."

"People are more conscious of the miles food travels now and realise they can get a product just up the road, which is as good as one from Australia or Argentina."

The vineyard was originally the vision of Martin Vickers, who planted his first grapes three decades ago. Thirty years on it boasts 30 acres of vines, which are managed by Martin and crafted by his son, Clive.

Today Halfpenny, which is situated 250 feet above sea level, is one of the largest in the UK.

For 23 years the vineyard has been awarded prizes for its wines, including international, national and regional recognition.

Numerous awards have come from the Merseyside Vineyard Association and the UKVA, including in 2013 when it won silver for its Tom Hill and bronze for its Old Meadow, Penny Black and pink sparkling wines at the UKVA, and silver or its pink and white sparkling wines at the Mercian awards.

The family business now includes a shop, restaurant, deli and a tearoom.

POLITICS

WITH DANIEL WAINWRIGHT

REDUCED to little more than a third of the membership of Walsall Council, one might very well question the audacity of Tory leader Mike Bird in bidding to retain control.

All the numbers were against him. Labour had won a couple more seats in last month's local elections and now held half.

The death of opposition leader Tim Oliver left Labour one more down. But in order for Labour to be defeated it would require every other party and the independents to team up against it. Somehow that is exactly what happened.

Mike Bird managed something that many Tories can only dream of, he got UKIP to support him staying in control. He is adamant that nothing was offered and that no deals were done, which raises a problem for Nigel Farage's Eurosceptics. Can they really claim to be as anti the Tories as they are Labour?

The Lib Dems, of course, have made their bed with the Tories over the past two years and must now lie in it for better or worse.

But Walsall's blue-gold-purple alliance is not in a stable position politically. There will be a by-election in Birchills Learmore to find a successor for Tim Oliver and I wouldn't bet against Labour keeping the seat.

Councillor Bird is going to have to come up with a year of political miracles. He has to keep not only his own party on side but the Lib Dems, UKIP and two independents, as well as trying to win over the Democratic Labour's Pete Smith (not to be confused with Labour Classic, New or One Nation).

Some councillors are new and untested. They all have to be there for every single vote to avoid defeat. And Councillor Bird has no authority over the ones who are not in his party. He has to get a budget passed. But then Labour has form for sitting on its hands in Walsall, despite first protesting and posing for pictures with campaigners, amid concerns that had they voted the budget down they would have paralysed the council.

He will have to keep a constant watch for a motion of no confidence. □□□□□

WEST Bromwich MP Tom Watson has put Mr Miliband's spin doctors on warning that they need to cut out the schoolboy errors. These included the decision to pose with a copy of The Sun and the now infamous pictures of Mr Miliband struggling with a bacon sandwich.

I'd add to that the decision to bring the leader to Walsall three days before polling day and invite party supporters to a speech they would already completely agree with. While the faithful were gathered and hanging on Ed's every word, they were not out knocking doors and winning hearts and minds.

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Blair keen to send young people to war

I SEE that Tony Blair is again extolling the virtues of us going to war in the Middle East. Is it his avowed intent to send the cream of our youth into battle to justify his role of ambassador for peace in the Middle East? We must pray that the powers that be take no notice of his ravings. I feel sure that the last thing we want to see are more flag draped coffins being repatriated to these shores.

Why doesn't he practice what he preaches and go marching off to war himself? While not wishing him any harm, I'm certain that

A Mander Centre trip is too costly

IT'S nice to know that we can look forward a transformation of the Mander Centre soon. However, I would like to make an observation if I may.

Last week my wife and I decided to do our shopping in the town (sorry, city) with most of it in the Mander Centre.

We parked on the convenient shoppers' ar park on the roof.

After completing our shopping and enjoying a cup of coffee we returned to our car and a £5.10 parking charge because we had spent more than two hours spending money in the Mander Centre.

On that basis we can drive to Merry Hill, get free parking and have a better choice of shops and stay as long as we like.

So unless we are going to get free parking in the new Mander Centre, why would we bother?

J JOHNSON
Wolverhampton

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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Not hard work, it's called being a parent

IT doesn't matter how much you try to encourage healthy eating at school, the children that the Government are targeting will still be go home and eat what their parents give them or snack on what's in the cupboard.

School should be for teaching, not feeding. If the government wants to promote healthier eating, it's the parents they need to be looking at.

I know many will whine that they are single parents and haven't got time to cook healthy meals from scratch. Well, I'm a single dad with sole custody of my 13 year old and she wakes up to a healthy breakfast every morning. I send her to school with a healthy packed lunch each day and at night I make a healthy

evening meal, and I run my own business in the meantime. I also help with her homework, read to her and spend time supporting extra-curricular sports activities.

It's not hard work, it's called being a parent and it's worth any sacrifice because I care about my daughter's future.

Children learn the basics of good morals and a hard working ethos from their parents at home, then the more specialised academic subjects from teachers at school.

Their honesty in doing so has saved me from immeasurable problems.

If the parents are lazy junk food addicts with no work ethic, then guess what? The children will turn out the same.

M PARSONS
Dudley

TIM WELLER
Hunnington Crescent
Halesowen

Thank you for honesty

I WOULD like to thank the good Samaritan who found my handbag that I accidentally left on a chair in the Therapy Department of Russells Hall Hospital on Thursday, June 5, and handed it to the receptionist.

The handbag contained my car keys, purse and credit cards.

Thank you once again and may I wish you the very best for the future. You deserve it.

M PARSONS
Dudley

Britain set a bad example

B Parsons believes that the EU is subjugating the UK.

We entered into it voluntarily after a referendum and send representatives to its Parliament every five years.

Over hundreds of years, the UK acquired domination and control over 50 countries by force of arms and kept them subjugated by military power. All this set a very bad example to Germany. Remarkably, those 50 countries still fought for us to stop Germany taking our world control off us in 1914 and 1939. To this day, the US-UK with NATO, remain as the world's dominant power bloc. Germany is the dominant partner in the EU and Angela Merkel of Germany is highly respected by constraint and not coercion. Quite a difference from our history!

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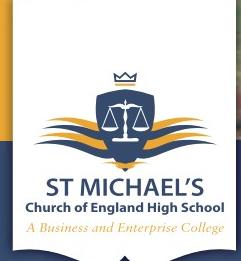
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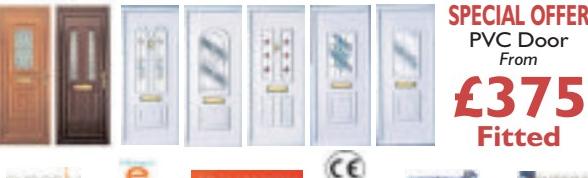
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Guest tells of passion for travels

DUDLEY SOUTH

AT the June meeting chairman Mary Jones welcomed back speaker Siddique Hussain to talk about his passion for the great outdoors.

He had travelled extensively to indulge his hobby of climbing from the high Himalayas, the French and Swiss Alps and the Tatra Mountains in Poland/Slovakia. He recommended the up and coming destination of Bulgaria which is very inexpensive.

In contrast to his exotic destinations he praised the Sheepwash Nature Reserve in Tipton and the Dudley Borough Trail. He organises group walks himself to Kidderminster and the Clee Hills in Shropshire. He showed slides of beautiful scenery and the many friends he had made enjoying the great outdoors.

Response

Ann Rogers had had a good response for her outing to Hagley Hall tomorrow (June 27) starting with a tour of the house at 1.30pm followed by a cream tea.

She also invited members to her home on August 8 for a coffee morning and strawberry scones.

There would also be a shopping trip to the Touchwood Centre, Solihull, in late November.

Meetings are at the Kingfisher Hotel, Wall Heath the second Friday each month at 12.30pm. The speaker on July 11 will be Mr Chris Kelly MP for Dudley South.

For further information call the secretary on 01902 372984.

Cake is cut to mark club's 20th birthday



Vice chairman Pamela Lane, left, and chairman Jane Emery cut the cake

CAMEO LADIES

of CAMEO. Each member enjoyed a slice at the end of the meal served with a cup of coffee. Members were delighted to take home a potted cream rose as a memento of the occasion.

Posh picnic for WI centenary

TRYSULL & SEISDON

and it promises to be an enjoyable celebration.

There are still a few places left on the Churnet Valley railway trip on August 6. A treasure hunt in Tettenhall Woods is also planned on August 21. This will be followed by afternoon tea.

Claire Preece entertained the group with one of her "easy" quizzes before refreshments. Speaker was Margaret Jarman, the

UK director of the charity Cambodian Child's Dream Organisation who provide clean water and sanitation to villages.

She explained how she became involved and has travelled to the jungles of Cambodia to see a well built in her husband's memory.

Since water wells were built, the death rate has decreased by 25 per cent from water related diseases. On July 10 Penny Wheat will talk about the craft of the silversmith.

ON July 2 the centenary baton will be arriving in the area, and Trysull & Seisdon institute is planning a "posh" picnic.

Members are invited to dress up in their finery to meet at the Bratch locks, Wombourne for scones and strawberries, washed down with a glass of fizz.

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Gaurav taking his first steps towards new life

A BRAVE toddler who inspired a worldwide search for a bone marrow match has taken his first steps after receiving a life-saving stem cell transplant.

Three-year-old Gaurav Bains, of Alexandra Road, Tipton, was given a life-saving stem cell transplant in December at Birmingham Children's Hospital following a huge campaign to find a donor.

The youngster spent almost six months recovering from the operation but was recently filmed by his family learning to walk all over again.

The footage was recorded at family-owned Tipton business Bains Supersave last month by his parents Gurprit and Sunny, who are encouraging people to join the bone marrow register.

The youngster was diagnosed with rare blood disorder Monosomy 7 Syndrome in June last year and his parents were told his best chance of a healthy life would be if a donor was found before Christmas.

After a worldwide campaign the Anthony Nolan database saw a surge in people registering and a perfect match was found. Had a match not been found, Gaurav's condition meant he would have been likely to develop an aggressive form of childhood leukaemia, which he may not have survived.

Mr Bains, aged 31, said: "It was a big relief to see him walk. He had his transplant in December and was bedridden for three months. He was released in March but he had picked up a virus in hospital which affected his strength to walk."

"He couldn't even sit up on his own. He was starting again as a baby. When we saw him sit up on his own that was a massive step. He hasn't got his normal balance like he had before. If he's



Three-year-old Gaurav Bains with his parents Sunny and Gurprit at their home sitting on the floor he's not got the full strength to get up himself, but it's a positive sign for us to see him walking around.

He's doing really well. He's having physiotherapy once a week at Birmingham Children's Hospital. He'll need that for a while longer. They are confident he will make a full recovery. "We have to keep massaging his muscle and keep him loose and relaxed."

Mr Bains said the couple were encouraging people to join the bone marrow register in a bid to help save lives. Visit www.anthonynolan.org for more information.

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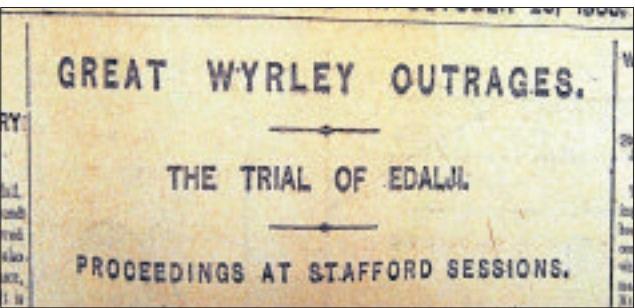
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The Express & Star reports Conan Doyle's investigation into the case of George Edalji



George Edalji in the dock during his court trial



Reporting of the George Edalji trial in the Express & Star of 1903



Sherlock Holmes writer Arthur Conan Doyle



The Edalji's home at St Mark's Vicarage in 1903

Miscarriage of justice still fascinates today

IT is a tale that fascinates to this day – and led to the intervention of Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Vicar's son George Edalji was wrongly convicted of a brutal pony mutilation and it fell to Conan Doyle to play real-life detective and clear the young solicitor's name.

Now the Wyrley Outrages – which unfolded at the turn of the 20th century – are to be made into a three-part ITV drama starring Martin Clunes as Conan Doyle.

The ITV series will be adapted from the novel 2005 Arthur & George by Julian Barnes, which was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. It will go into production this autumn and will be filmed in Greater London and Staffordshire – but exact locations are yet to be released.

The mysterious case started with a collection of anonymous poison pen letters in the name of the 'Wyrley Gang' which plagued the area during the late 1880 and 1890s – some which named George. Then followed the

MEMORY LANE by Rob Golledge

mutilations which shocked the community. Gruesome picture postcards from the time showed some of the mutilated creatures either lying in a field or at the local slaughterhouse.

On August 18, 1903, a pony was found mutilated at the Great Wyrley Colliery Company. Police investigations led officers to the vicarage and to George, whose father Sharupji was the vicar at St Mark's church for 42 years. He was born a Parsi in Bombay and married to Charlotte who was born in Kettley in Shropshire.

George was arrested on suspicion of the pit pony killing – the eighth such slashing – but it was inferred he was also responsible for the maiming and ripping of at least five horses, three cows, and a sheep.

He was tried at Stafford Quarter Sessions in what today is the Shire Hall Gallery. Despite dubious circumstantial evidence such as razor blades

found in the vicarage and spots of blood on his coat, he was convicted and sentenced to seven-years of penal servitude with hard labour. The fact that the outrages continued after Edalji's imprisonment was disregarded.

There was huge public outrage over the case – not only at the shocking killings but also at George's treatment.

Because of the widespread publicity, public pressure to the Home Office appeared to pay off. In October 1906, George was released, although only because the sentence was considered too harsh and his name was not cleared.

He went on to write a series of articles for The Umpire newspaper telling his side of the story. The articles caught the eye of Conan Doyle, who travelled to Staffordshire and, just like his sleuth creation Sherlock, began to unravel the case.

Conan Doyle argued that George, who was near sighted, could in no way have committed the crime and, eventually the guilty verdict was found to be unsafe. Home Secretary Herbert Gladstone concluded that George should be granted a free pardon but refused any compensation.



Rev Edalji, wife Charlotte and Horace, Maud and George



The wrongly convicted George Edalji



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During these difficult times it's important to make every penny count, so we want the people of Sandwell to show some of that war time spirit and do their bit to not waste food.

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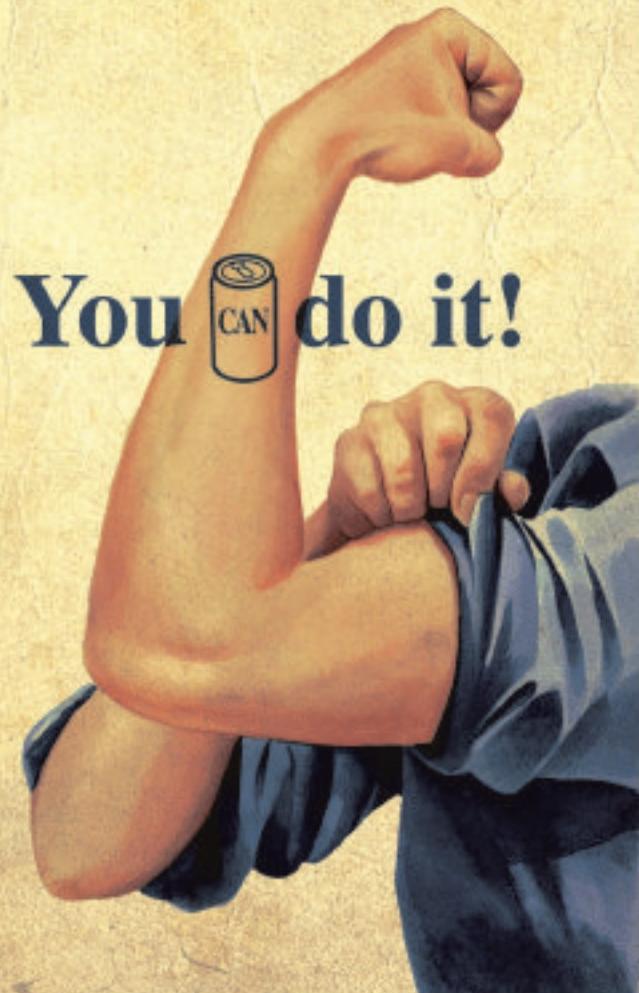
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Lottery backs plan to put historic pictures on line



Express & Star editor Keith Harrison, left, archivist Heidi McIntosh, historian Anne Eales, and university business manager Scott Knight

Lottery Fund. The partnership will use the money to develop a detailed blueprint for the project, before the team applies for a six-figure lottery sum to carry out digitisation work.

Support

More than 100 groups and individuals had backed the bid, with letters of support coming from as far afield as Canada and Australia. Supporters included the Black Country Society, the Landor Society, which celebrates the history of Rugeley, the Black Country Memories Club, and the London Wolves Supporters Club.

Mike Pearson, of the Black Country Society, said he was thrilled that the bid had been successful.

"It's not just the photographs, it is the social history behind it, it represents 140 years of how the Black Country has grown and changed."

Wolverhampton city archivist Heidi McIntosh said one of the most common requests she received was for people wanting old newspaper photographs from years gone by.

Express & Star editor Keith Harrison said: "We're absolutely delighted to be part of this project."

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Young footballers rally round to support little Leah's appeal

A YOUTH football team has got behind a toddler's quest to raise £35,000 for an operation to help her walk.

Leah Davy was born with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy which has left the five-year-old unable to walk without help. Her mother, Katherine, aged 27, has launched a campaign to pay for an operation.

Members of Netherton Colts donated £1,200 raised at their presentation award nights towards the little girl's cause. The total takes the amount raised so far to £6,000.

Spokesman for the football club Carl Bottle said: "I heard about Leah and the club decided it was a worthwhile cause. We're delighted to help." Player Lewis Hamblett, aged 13, is also making wrist bands to help raise money for Leah.

Mrs Davy, who lives in Rowley

Regis, said: "It's amazing to get the support like this from the football club. We went along to the presentation evenings and the reception was so nice. The money gives us all a big boost."

Leah, pupil at Springfield Primary School, uses a wheelchair or a frame to get around.

She was born 12 weeks early and spent the first three months of her life in the neo-natal unit at Dudley's Russell Hall Hospital.

Mrs Davy said: "She is just a normal, playful four-year-old girl. We want the very best for her."

The family is holding its next fund-raising night at Mecca Bingo in Oldbury on July 12.

Tickets for the event include bingo cards and a UB40 tribute act. To help see www.justgiving.com/lehawhish



Leah Davy from Rowley Regis is pictured with Connor Edge and other members of Netherton Colts

Council scrap white only taxi cab rule

A RULE forcing taxi drivers in Dudley to use only white-coloured vehicles has been abolished.

Drivers successfully battled for the controversial single-colour scheme to be overturned and the change came into force this month, ending nearly 20 years of the white only ruling.

The vehicles can now be any colour but must be fitted with new signs which clearly identify the vehicles as taxis to ensure customer safety.

Drivers launched a campaign against the single-colour rule, introduced by Dudley Council in 1996, saying the rising cost of white-coloured vehicles was putting them out of business.

Chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association Shaz Saleem said: "We are delighted the change has now been made. It will be of benefit to firms in the borough.

"White cars could be up to £2,000 more expensive than other vehicles and it was forcing some drivers out of business."

He added: "The plates on the vehicles are very clear and show that the cars are taxis."

Bursary is a boost for the less well off students

A COLLEGE with sites across the Black Country and in Worcestershire has been awarded a £20,000 bursary to help disadvantaged students.

Birmingham Metropolitan College which has campuses in Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Great Barr and Kidderminster has received the cash from the National Express Foundation.

The grant can be used to help young people with the cost of travel, books and specialised clothing.

Principal Andrew Cleaves said the money would be a huge benefit to students, adding: "I'm delighted that Birmingham Metropolitan College has been successful in its bid for the Student Bursaries Programme.

Contributing

Any additional financial support for students whilst studying is a bonus and will help students to realise their goals as well as assisting families who are endeavouring to support them.

It's wonderful to see one of our major, local employers contributing assistance in this way and we're looking forward to continuing to work with the Foundation to deliver a successful programme."

The National Express Foundation is providing £100,000 this year to assist progress to higher education or new activities, equipment and training at colleges across the region.

James Donnan from the foundation, said: "The Foundation seeks to help young people from challenging backgrounds to succeed in life. We know a modest amount of financial help can make a huge difference to bursary recipients, enabling them to progress their studies and further their ambitions."

Launched two years ago, the National Express Foundation is a registered charity. The bursary programme has already benefited students across the West Midlands.

Last week Birmingham Metropolitan College has announced expansion programmes for two of its sites.

Around £8.5 million will be spent revamping the James Watt Campus in Great Barr to boost student numbers with £2.9m of the money being grant funded by the Skills Funding Agency.

A further £1.5 million will be spent on improvements at its campus in Hagley Road, Stourbridge, which is already undergoing a major revamp.

Work is under way on a £5 million scheme to modernise the campus in Oldswinford, parts of which date back 60 years.

Affordable housing is praised by MP

A BLACK Country MP has welcomed figures showing new affordable homes are helping people get onto the property ladder.

Chris Kelly, Conservative MP for Dudley South, said 800 homes have been built in Dudley since 2010 and 157 people have been able to buy their own home thanks to the Government's Help to Buy scheme.

He said: "The Conservatives, as part of our long-term economic plan, took action to get Britain building again and launched Help to Buy so more people could get on the housing ladder. Thanks to these policies, 800 new affordable homes have now been delivered and 157 people have been able to buy their own home in Dudley."

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Scheme to build homes on woodland

MORE than 40 homes could be built on woodland near to a popular park.

Developer A J Mucklow has submitted outline plans to Sandwell Council to build 42 homes in an area of woodland off Halesowen Road in Cradley Heath.

The development, near to Haden Hill Park, would consist of a mixed development of three and two-bedroom homes.

Junction

Under the proposals the site will be accessed via a new junction on Halesowen Road and the housing would only take up part of the site with a large area behind the development left as woodland.

In a report to the council, the developer said: "The development sits within green and pleasant setting."

"Overall these proposals will provide an attractive and appropriate development, well related to its setting and the surrounding area."

The area of woodland has been set aside for a number of years by Sandwell Council for residential development and it was subject to a similar application, for 41 homes, from the same developer in 2011.

That scheme was granted permission but did not go ahead.

FOUR developers are bidding to transform a rundown shopping parade which campaigners claim is a blight on Colley Gate.

Around 40 people attended a public meeting last week demanding action on the parade of shops, which within hours of the meeting was hit by an arson attack. Council officers vowed to force owners to clean up the derelict shops near Cradley.

A derelict Chinese takeaway was targeted by arsonists. Three fire crews attended the blaze at the former Lucky Star in Colley Gate at 9.30pm on Friday. A man in a neighbouring flat escaped his home but suffered no injury.

Property bosses have said they are hoping the shops, between the junctions of Maple Tree Lane and Colley Lane, will be redeveloped following talks with interested parties.

Compulsory

Potential developers have until July 31 to register their interest in the site before offers are scrutinised and a preferred bidder revealed. They will then seek deals to buy the shops before submitting redevelopment proposals to Dudley Council's planning department.

Dudley Council's strategic surveyor, Chris Walters, told members of Cradley Action Group that they would seek to use compulsory purchase orders if deals were not secured. He said he had been working to market the

site as a development opportunity for months.

"The problem we had was that the market for residential and commercial properties had been on its knees for the last few years and it had been very difficult to get developers interested," he said. "But we have hit this at the right time for the market and, where as we had been looking at two years before we could get something off the ground, we could be looking at halving that time once a developer is ready and signed up for the site."

He added that if they had had to pursue compulsory purchase there could be delays.

Dudley Council owns two plots of land, by the road junctions, whilst the rest is in private ownership. Lucky Star takeaway, a chemist and a convenience store occupy three of seven units.

Head of environmental health, Nick Walters, told the meeting that notices had been served on owners of two derelict shops to board them up within 48 hours.



Venture Pressings in Cradley Heath have received a major financial boost

Output has increased after grant

A GRANT of £17,400 from the Green Shoots Fund has helped Cradley Heath business Venture Pressings to take on new staff, increase production and greatly expand its customer base.

The firm has used the cash to contribute towards a new press machine and accompanying tools, which has enabled it to ramp up its manufacture of board bands, the steel strips used to strengthen scaffolding boards.

In just over a year the company has increased production from 36,000 to 90,000 bands per week.

The new plant has enabled the firm to complete each job to order on site, removing the need to bring in sub-contractors.

Financial director Stuart Parks said: "The new machine means we can work faster and get the whole job done ourselves."

Venture Pressings employs eight staff at its Cradley Road factory and four apprentices have been taken on.

Broker in move to new offices

A SPECIALIST classic cars and motorbikes insurance broker is moving its headquarters from Cradley Heath to Dudley.

Footman James, which has been in Cradley Heath since its creation in 1983, is taking over the former Rentokil Initial offices in Dudley town centre.

All 150 staff will move from the current base in Waterfall Lane to Castlegate Business Park.

Andy Fairchild, managing director, said: "We combine our operation as one of the UK's leading insurance brokers for classic cars and bikes with a very proud heritage in the West Midlands. We are delighted to announce our move as well as firmly retaining our Black Country roots."

The move will take place later this year following refurbishment at the Dudley site.

The business has more than 100,000 policyholders.

'Brazil' lifts the trophy

THE second Black Country Chamber five-a-side football competition was won by Lift & Engineering Services from Cradley Heath.

Each of 20 competing chamber members was drawn to represent a country in the World Cup for the tournament on the Halesowen pitches of chamber member Lucozade Powerleague. Lift & Engineering Services as Brazil took on Birmingham Metropolitan College, as Algeria, in the final to snatch victory 4-3.

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There's the chance to ride on a high speed bullet train past iconic Mt. Fuji, a trip by aerial gondola to see the Owakudani 'Boiling Valley' and the option to stay at a typical Japanese inn, bathe in a hot spring, and see the spot where the first atom bomb was detonated.

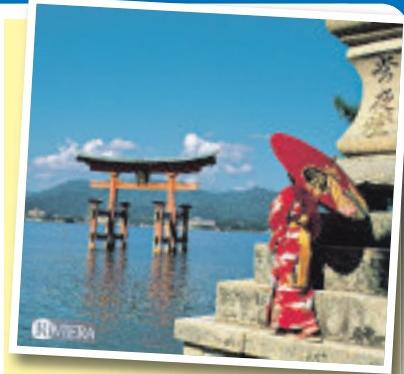
In Tokyo see its most fascinating districts, including the shopping and entertainment mecca of Ginza and the Akihabara electronic town – home to one of the first stores devoted to personal robots. Then to the north of the city there's the scenic area Nikko National Park, relatively unknown outside Japan. Surrounded by breathtaking lakes, waterfalls, forests and hot springs, a visit is made to one of the country's most extraordinary shrines – dedicated to one of its great Shogun warriors.

Kyoto, still considered to be its cultural heart has carefully retained far more of historical Japan than any other major city. With exquisite shrines, temples, Zen gardens and traditional handicrafts, the city is an absolute treasure-trove.

Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the eighth century. Here, traditional culture first took root and is famous for its great Buddhist monuments including a large bronze buddha as well as time-honoured festivals.

Hiroshima is forever destined to be synonymous with the world's first use of an atomic bomb and a visit is made to the Peace Memorial Park and museum, with the shattered remains of the nearby dome marking the epicentre of the blast.

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SEE US

15

Halesowen Chronicle

Thursday, June 26, 2014

There have been a lot of bad news stories in the press and in the news in the last 6 months regarding care homes and carers failing to do their job properly. Our carers don't just see their job as a job, they go that extra mile for each and everyone of the people they care for, nothing is too much trouble. Our staff are fully trained in dementia and we evaluate each and every one we care for differently, not everyone's needs are the same and we make sure that we get it right from day one.

We like to find out what the people we care for like, their interests, their past and their future.

We don't just come in and do the basics, if something else needs doing then our carers fully understand that not every day is the same and will be more than happy to help out in any way they can. We do things differently and we would like to invite you to pop along to our open day so that you and the person who may need some care can not only meet our carers but can meet the people we care for. What better way can there be to find out how we work and the things we do that help the people we care for by meeting them for yourself.

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- likes and dislikes
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- Communication problems and needs
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- Continence Care
- Other mental health issues
- Family anxieties
- Environmental likes, dislikes.
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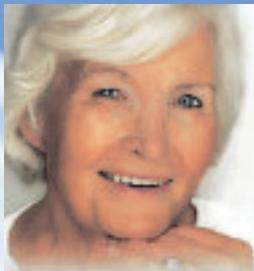


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Aynuk portrait is focus of festival of fun at cone

HIS cheeky grin and infectious humour is as well known in the Black Country as faggots and paes.

And now an image of the popular comic Aynuk is being committed to canvas for an auction as part of Black Country Day celebrations.

Worlsley's Red House Glass Cone is hosting a three day festival of comedy, music and poetry for the Black Country Festival from July 11 to 13.

Smile

And the master of mirth himself is having his mischievous smile recreated for a painting to be auctioned off during the weekend.

Wollaston-based artist David Jones, aged 38, has been commissioned to create a painting of Aynuk, aka Alan Smith, for the festival organised between Dudley Council and KMS events.



Artist David Jones with his painting of Aynuk and musician Danni G inside the glass cone

Villagers in call to move the parish boundaries

HUNDREDS of campaigners are demanding changes to parish boundaries, which they believe give villagers a raw deal on services.

A protest is gathering momentum calling for Hagley, near Stourbridge, to no longer be cut in half by traditional boundaries. The centre of the village comes under the Hagley parish but West Hagley, on the outskirts, is part of the parish of Cleint. Around 500 people have signed the petition by Hagley Residents Action Group calling for a review.

Bromsgrove District Council says it is planning to hold a review after the request from campaigners to transfer those homes to Hagley Parish Council for local governance. The current parish boundary is based on Gallows Brook and has been the boundary for more than 150 years.

But the campaigners say that since then almost 500 homes have been built in the Cleint Parish part of Hagley.

They claim the change in boundary would give greater power to Hagley Parish Council to help safeguard vital services such as the community centre, transport links and the library.

Hagley Parish Council has backed the scheme with Councillor Steve Colella, who is also a member of the district authority, welcoming the idea.

"We have received a great deal of backing for this campaign and one which I am more than happy to support," he said. "As chairman of Hagley Parish Council it seems illogical that we represent only part of Hagley and unable to support or

represent residents who live no more than a road width away.

"I'm keen to see that Hagley is a community that is unified and common goals involve the greater area of Hagley and not just a proportion of it. I can reassure residents who live in the area under review that the change will not be detrimental in anyway but will bring the community closer together."

"It is an anomaly that part of Hagley village is being represented by a parish council that is remote from where many residents live."

Residents' campaigner Fran Evans, who lives in the Cleint parish part of Hagley, said: "We believe it will also ensure that our interests are better represented by Hagley Parish Council. I have attended a Cleint Parish Council meeting and I didn't feel as if many of the issues discussed affected me, whereas virtually all the issues discussed in Hagley Parish Council meetings have an impact on our everyday life."

Black Country theme to hall comedy show

A MONTHLY comedy night will celebrate the humour of the Black Country at its next event, in July.

Kum-n-avaloff will be held at Stourbridge Town Hall on Thursday, July 3.

And the event will tie-in with celebrations surrounding the official Black Country Day on July 14.

Headlining the event will be comedian Andy White, from Smethwick.

Regular compere Dan Smith will host the evening and there are two more support acts still to be confirmed.

Tickets are £8 and include a curry. They can be purchased online from the www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment/website.

Councillor Pete Lowe, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "Kum-n-avaloff is always a popular and funny show."

He added: "We are looking forward to celebrating our local humour as part of the Black Country Festival."

Council preparing to axe 230 more jobs

MORE than 200 jobs will be axed at Sandwell Council over the next financial year as the authority tries to balance its books.

Bosses have announced that 230 posts will go by April 2015, which follow nearly 700 job cuts at the council since 2011. The cuts come at a time when cash-strapped Sandwell Council has to make more than £120 million of savings by 2016.

Council deputy leader Councillor Mahboob Hussain said: "These are difficult times and tough decisions have to be taken."

"We are sorry to see jobs going but we will do everything we can to protect frontline services."

The number given for the latest cuts are an estimate of what is necessary to make the required savings.

GMB regional officer Mohammed Khalid said the was in consultation with the council. He added: "There are numerous cuts taking place across the council and we need to make sure that the staff that are left are being supported. It's a huge concern, with the cuts going on in a number of services that have seen some cuts already."

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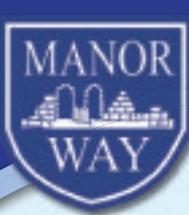
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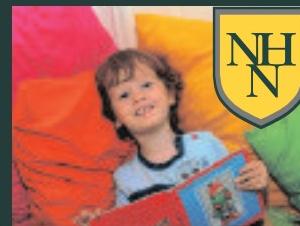
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Our pupils enjoy, achieve and thrive

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

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Our safeguarding practice is rigorous, sensitive and supportive. Our recent OFSTED grading acknowledged our quality learning experiences and celebrated so many aspects of our lovely school.

We cater for children from age three to 11 in our two form entry school. We are so lucky to have a green and leafy site with our own extensive playing field including a tyre park and we also have a magnificent dance studio.

Vibrant

We are a really vibrant and engaging school and you cannot fail on a visit to be impressed by our irresistible approach to the curriculum, which you can tangibly see throughout the school.

Irresistible learning is our passion. We launch each topic with a 'stunning start' that hooks children into an exciting learning experience.

Evidence of our recent topics can be seen on our own website at www.templemeadow.com

Temple Meadow children take part in a range of offsite activities that link



Learning is fun at Temple Meadow Primary School and Nursery in Cradley Heath port, it was highly praised in terms of provision, experiences and leadership.

Kids' Club hosts before and after school provision as well as providing school holiday cover on our school site.

We are a co-operative Trust school, part of The Rowley Learning Trust in partnership with four other local primary schools and a range of partners.

We would love to show you around our fabulous school and currently have Nursery places available for September.

Temple Meadow Primary School
Growing together, learning together



A vibrant, welcoming family of learners; where we promote equality for all and partnership with our community. We pride ourselves on nurturing our children so that every child reaches their full potential and shines.'

- ◆ Temple Meadow children are really special—full of fun, enjoyment, with a real thirst for knowledge.
- ◆ Our school aim is to raise standards for all children while at the same time keeping them safe and linking real life experiences to learning.
- ◆ We are passionate about our Irresistible Learning Curriculum.
- ◆ We fully fund a wide range of after school clubs across all age ranges to ensure children have equal access to enhanced provision.
- ◆ We have before and after school provisions as well as school holiday cover hosted by our school site Kids Club (OFSTED Good grading).
- ◆ We are a really vibrant and engaging school and you cannot fail on a visit to be impressed by our irresistible approach to the curriculum which you can tangibly see throughout the school.



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 Headteacher: Ms C Walsh
[Website: www.templemeadow.com](http://www.templemeadow.com)

Gift that keeps on giving for more than 60 years



Happy couple - Fred and June Simonds celebrate their milestone diamond wedding anniversary

IT WAS the birthday present that lasted for more than 60 years as a diamond couple celebrate reaching a marriage milestone.

Fred Simonds had invited a host of old school friends to his 21st birthday party – many of whom he had not seen in years.

But little did he know that a dance with one former classmate would lead to marriage. Fred and his wife June, aged 84 and 82 respectively, have now celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary. The couple were both raised in Warley and attended Oldbury County High School. Fred recalls seeing his future bride aged just 13 but they remained only acquaintances.

After leaving school Fred first worked as an estate agent before serving 18 months National Service as a driver in the Royal Engineers at Long Marston, near Stratford-upon-Avon.

It was at the hall at St Gregory's Church, in Bearwood, for Fred's 21st birthday that the pair were reunited. "I saw her and I just thought I'd ask her to dance. It is amazing to think it is 60 years later," Fred said.

They tied the knot at Holy Trinity Church in Smethwick three years later. The couple have three children – Robert, aged 56, Stephen, 54, and 51-year-old David – seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

June moved into Netherton Green Nursing Home, Bowling Green Road, Netherton, three and a half years ago.



The couple on their wedding day

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Pop nostalgia with stars of the 1970s

NOSTALGIA for the 70s will be all the rage at the LG Arena tomorrow when the Once In A Lifetime show packages some of the era's best known names.

Don't expect identical line-ups from the heydays of these pop acts. Topping the bill The Osmonds now include only three of the American brothers who conquered the world. There will be Jay, Jimmy and Merrill but no Donny.

Showaddywaddy feature two originals and one is the drummer. At least Les McKeown's Legendary Bay City Rollers has Les, the original singer for the Scottish popstars who had a tartan army of fans, and David Essex can't be replaced. Tickets cost £47.70.

Danish drama and teen humour

THERE is plenty of new drama to be seen at Birmingham Rep's smaller Door and Studio venues.

Freely Asked Questions, New Wolsey Young Associates' guide to life for teenagers is staged tomorrow night at The Door.

A show for the under-8s, Peep!, is at The Door for morning and matinee performances on Saturday.

As part of the Be Festival of European culture, Danish theatre company Out of Balanz present Next Door, inspired by a neighbour's death, at The Studio from Wednesday to next Friday. Call 0121 236 4455.

Can't help loving those songs as blockbuster shows roll in

Musical was born to boogie

THE LIFE and music of 1970s glam rocker Marc Bolan will be celebrated in musical 20th Century Boy at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Bolan lit up the early 70s with his electric boogie band T Rex, leading a glam rock boom that also featured David Bowie, Slade and Sweet, but he died aged 29 when his Mini driven by girlfriend soul singer Gloria Jones crashed into a tree. The show starts with Bolan's son seeking to learn more about his father, who was a London mod and then a hippy before hitting the big time.

20th Century Boy The Musical stars Warren Sollars as the cork-screw-haired pop star and features his hits, including Get It On, Metal Guru, I Love To Boogie, Hot Love, Ride A White Swan and, of course, 20th Century Boy.



Warren Sollars stars as Marc Bolan in 20th Century Boy

Swamp rocker gave Elvis a hit

TONY Joe White who wrote funky swamp rock song Polk Salad Annie, one of Elvis Presley's 1970s hits, is at Bilston venue The Robin 2 on Thursday.

The July 3 gig by the singer-songwriter from Louisiana, who also wrote Tina Turner hit Steamy Windows and the classic Rainy Night in Georgia, in support of his album Who You Gonna Hoo-doo?

Meanwhile, that's the same night that influential Liverpudian band Echo & The Bunnymen have their rescheduled May concert at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton, following the release of their new album Meteorites. The band had a string of hits in the 1980s including The Killing Moon and The Cutter.

Strictly duo top dance mob show

STRICTLY Come Dancing professionals Kevin Clifton and Karen Hauer, who are engaged to be married, top the bill in dance show Flash Mob. Kevin was a runner up with partner Sian Williams in the last series and Karen partnered Hairy Biker Dave Myers.

Flash Mob also features Britain's Got Talent finalists Flawless, So You Think You Can Dance runner up Tommy Franzen, Got To Dance duo Alleviate and Irish fusion couple Brosena. It is staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre tomorrow night and Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on July 15 and 16.

THE American songbook gets an airing over the next couple of weeks with two classic US musicals on stage in Birmingham.

Cape Town Opera open their British tour of the lavish and seldom staged musical Show Boat at Birmingham Hippodrome on Wednesday, July 2, for four nights and two matinees.

The story follows the lives of the performers, stagehands and dock workers involved with floating fun palace the Cotton Blossom, a Mississippi show boat, over a 40 year period. The epic production promises all the glamour and flourish of a big family musical but with a story that highlights the racial tensions people faced at that time.

The show features more than 200 costumes, a set by the renowned stage designer Johan Engels, and the music and songs of Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II sung by South Africa's finest opera singers and played by the 30-strong Cape Philharmonic. The emotional score includes Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man and the showstopping Ol' Man River.

A revival of Irving Berlin's Annie Get Your Gun, starring Emma Williams as sharpshooter Annie Oakley and Jason Donovan as Frank Butler, will be staged at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Boasting such songs as Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better, There's No Business Like Show Business and Doin' What Comes Natur'ly, the Wild West show also features comic actor Norman Pace as Buffalo Bill.

Meanwhile, it's songs from the rock 'n' roll era that will be heard at the Hippodrome until Saturday night with Buddy, the West End hit musical about 1950s star Buddy Holly being staged.

Once Upon A Time, a new piece of musical theatre written and devised by Looked After Young People from Birmingham, will be performed at the Hippodrome's Patrick Centre on Sunday, July 6.

Then the big summer show that makes other theatres green with envy, Wicked, ar-



A scene from Cape Town Opera's Show Boat

rives at the Hippodrome for a summer stint, July 9 to September 6. Emily Tierney and Nikki Davis-Jones will star as Glinda and Elphaba, with Liam Doyle as Fiyero in the touring version of the hit musical prequel to The Wizard of Oz.

Based on Gregory Maguire's novel, Wicked re-imagines the characters created by L Frank Baum in his Oz stories to tell the story of an unlikely friendship between two sorcery students who become Glinda The Good and the Wicked Witch of the West. It is packed with technical wizardry, a witty

story and memorable songs by Stephen Schwartz, including Defying Gravity.

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CHOICE



Phillip Schofield

The Cube: Celebrity Special (ITV, 7.30pm)

Mollie King from the Saturdays tackles a series of fiendishly difficult challenges as she tries to win up to £250,000 for her chosen charity. Cheered by on bandmates Una Foden, Frankie Sandford, Rochelle Humes and Vanessa White in the studio, the singer is under intense pressure to hold her nerve and avoid slip-ups inside The Cube. Back in 2012, Mo Farah became the first contestant to walk away with the jackpot – a feat nobody else has managed since. How will Mollie compare to the Olympic gold medallist? Phillip Schofield is on hand to provide words of encouragement.

BBC1

- Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.**
- 6.00 Breakfast.** 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 Wimbledon 2014. The sixth day's play continues. 4.30 Match of the Day Live. Group A Winner v Group B Runner-up (Kick-off 5.00pm). 7.10 BBC News: Weather.
- 7.30 A Question of Sport: Super Sunday.** Jason Manford presents the game show, with Matt Dawson and Phil Tufnell joined by actor Patrick Robinson, comedian Sean Walsh and sporting stars Ivan Thomas and Sharon Davies.
- 8.10 The National Lottery: Break the Safe.** New series, Nick Knowles returns with the game show in which three pairs of contestants – a married couple, a father and daughter and two work colleagues – take part in several question-and-answer sessions in a bid to be the last standing. The winners have the chance to play for the money in the safe – with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. Includes the Lotto and Football draws, presented by Jenni Falconer, with chart star Pixie Lott dropping in for a chat and to press the all-important button.
- 9.00 Casualty.** Fletch makes a huge sacrifice to save Tess when she is involved in a horrendous train crash. Connie spends her first day as clinical lead, while Ethan and Lily make up.
- 9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys.** Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll as a doting mother-of-six who constantly interferes in her children's lives. (R)
- 10.20 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.**
- 10.40 Kevin Bridges – The Story Continues.** The Glasgow comedian returns to his home town, treating a sell-out crowd at the SECC Arena to his usual blend of social commentary, astute observations and sharp one-liners. (R)
- 11.40 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights.** Preview from the first two matches in the last 16 in Brazil, which took place in Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte. 12.25 Film: Final Analysis. (1992) 2.20 Weatherview. 2.25 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00 Film:** The Big Sky. (1952) Western, starring Kirk Douglas. 8.00 MOTD Kickabout. 8.30 Inspire! The Olympic Journey. Magazine series presented by Gabby Logan. 9.00 World Cup Films. 10.45 Wimbledon 2014. Live coverage of the opening matches on day six.
- 8.00 Today at Wimbledon.** John Inverdale introduces highlights of the sixth day's play at the All England Club, where the men's and ladies' third-round singles matches were due to reach a conclusion. The middle Saturday is always a special occasion at SW19 and the crowd on Centre Court last year were treated to the sight of Sabine Lisicki and Novak Djokovic, the two players who would eventually finish as runners-up, progressing to the fourth round with respective victories over Samantha Stosur and Jeremy Chardy, while Laura Robson – out of this year's tournament through injury – was another popular victor out on Court Two.
- 9.00 Mock the Week.** Host Dara O Briain and regulars Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons are joined by Angela Barnes, Miles Jupp, Romesh Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe on the topical comedy quiz. The panelists give their take on the week's major news stories and participate in a series of stand-up spots and improvised games. (R)
- 9.30 Glastonbury 2014.** Jo Whely, Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens present live coverage of one of the most talked about headline acts ever to grace Worthy Farm. Musicians take their place on the Pyramid stage. There are also highlights of performances from the second full day at Glastonbury, including music by Pixies, MGMT, John Grant and Manic Street Preachers, as well some bespoke acoustic moments and a peek at the late-night shenanigans that go on around the massive site under the cover of darkness.
- 10.30 Film:** Hard Candy. (2006) Thriller, with Patricia Wilson and Ellen Page. 3.10 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. A chance to see in full one of the first two matches in the last 16, which featured the Group C winner v the Group D runner-up, and the Group A winner v the Group B runner-up. 4.55 This Is BBC Two. 5.00 Preview of upcoming programmes.

ITV

- Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.**
- 6.00 CITV:** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Cannimals. (R) 7.00 Cannimals. (R) 7.05 Soothi. (R) 7.20 Digital Federation. (R) 7.45 Horrid Henry. (R) 8.00 Adventure Time. 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Hungry Sailors. (R) 10.25 Meet the Shire Wrote. (R) 11.20 KIDS News. 11.30 Storage Hoarders. (R) 12.30 All Star Mr & Mrs. Fortune. (R) 3.00 Timmy Time. (R) 4.00 The Chase. (R) 5.00 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 5.45 Catchphrase. (R)
- 5.30 Regional Programme:** Weather. 5.45 ITV News; Weather.
- 7.00 You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and mobile-phone footage, featuring clips of cooking with gas, saddling up and something never before seen on the programme. (R)
- 7.30 The Cube: Celebrity Special.** Mollie King from the Saturdays tackles a series of fiendishly difficult challenges as she tries to win up to £250,000 for her chosen charity. Cheered by on bandmates Una Foden, Frankie Sandford, Rochelle Humes and Vanessa White in the studio, the singer is under intense pressure to hold her nerve and avoid slip-ups inside The Cube. Back in 2012, Mo Farah became the first contestant to walk away with the jackpot – a feat nobody else has managed since. How will Mollie compare to the Olympic gold medallist? Phillip Schofield is on hand to provide words of encouragement.
- 8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014.** Group C Winner v Group D Runner-Up (Kick-off 9.00pm). Coverage of the second match in the last 16, which takes place at the Estadio do Maracana in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.
- 11.15 ITV News: Weather.**
- 11.30 Film: Gone.** (2007) A British couple travel through the Australian Outback with a backpacker who uses mind games to drive them apart. Thriller, with Shaun Evans, Scott Mechlowicz and Amelia Warner.
- 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightshift.**

CHANNEL 4

- 6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 Trans World Sport.** 7.30 FIM Superbike World Championship. 7.55 The Morning Line. 9.00 Weekend Kitchen. 10.00 Fraser's Adventures. (R) 10.30 Fraser. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.50 The Simpsons. (R) 12.20 The Simpsons. (R) 12.50 The Tomorrow People. 1.40 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newcastle and Newmarket. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.40 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.40 Come Dine with Me. (R)
- 6.15 Come Dine with Me: Retired.** golfer David Witcher hosts the final evening in Kingston upon Thames, south-west London, and hopes to impress with an American-themed menu, including Wyoming slow-cooked ribs and Louisiana seafood chowder. After dinner, he entertains his guests with a bucking bronco, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)
- 6.45 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.15 Film: Transformers.** (2007) Teenager Sam Witwicky is treated to his first car by his dad, but it turns out to be an alien sent with a life of its own. Before long, the vehicle embroils Sam in a long-running intergalactic war between two factions of giant shape-changing robots, which have come to Earth to find a mystical cube that grants infinite power to its possessor. Michael Bay's sci-fi action adventure, inspired by the toy franchise, with Shia LaBeouf, Megan Fox, Josh Duhamel, Jon Voight and John Turturro. Edited for language.
- 10.00 Film: Van Helsing.** (2004) A vampire slayer sets out to help a gypsy princess vanquish Count Dracula and his three brides once and for all. Gothic action-adventure, starring Hugh Jackman and Kate Beckinsale.
- 12.35 Film:** Terminal Velocity. (1994) A skydiving instructor helps a Russian spy foil an international criminal conspiracy to steal a fortune in bullion. Action thriller, starring Charlie Sheen and Nastassja Kinski. 2.15 Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly and Dirk worry that Cindy might be hiding something from them, and the Roscoes boys promise not to push Rick out of their lives again. (R) 4.25 River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall revisits his summer of vegetarian living. (R) 4.50 Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) 5.45 The Hoobs. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** 10.00 Access. 10.05 Meerkat Manor. (R) 10.35 Big Brother: The Eviction. (R) 12.00 The Hunt for Hitler's Missing Millions. (R) 1.00 Film: Away All Boats. (1956) Second World War drama, starring Jeff Chandler. 3.15 Film: Under Ten Flags. (1950) Second World War drama, starring Charles Laughton and Van Heflin. 5.10 5 News. 5.15 Film: Columbo: Short Fuse. (1972) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk and Roddy McDowall. Edited for violence.
- 6.40 Film:** Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle. (1972) A penniless rare-plant collector, desperate for funds to support his expensive hobby, fakes his nephew's kidnapping to get his hands on a trust fund. However, the supposed victim turns up dead, prompting Columbo to take action to unmask the killer. Detective drama, starring Peter Falk, Bradford Dillman and Ray Milland. Edited for violence.
- 7.55 5 News Worldwide.**
- 8.00 The 12-Year-Old Shopaholic, and Other Big Spending Kids.** Four children whose expensive tastes are indulged by their parents. Chase from Kent is a beauty pageant winner who is addicted to designer labels and also the proud owner of a pony, while Romy from north London possesses at least 50 handbags, but argues she is saving her mum and dad money, because she won a scholarship to a fee-paying school. Nine-year-old Zak's divorced parents regularly shower him with toys and clothes, while 15-year-old Lauren's mother holds down three jobs to keep her daughter in the latest fashions. (R)
- 9.00 Big Brother.** Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.
- 10.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole.** This edition of the programme focuses on large families who depend on the benefits system, including an Ipswich couple who have 13 children. (R)
- 11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych.** Ryan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.
- 12.00 SuperCasino.** 3.05 Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. (R) 4.00 House Doctor. (R) 4.25 Make It Big. (R) 4.50 The Funky Valley Show. (R) 5.00 Angels of Jarm. (R) 5.10 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 5.20 Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00 Kodakine & Kelis @ Glastonbury 8.00 Lana Del Rey & Jack White @ Glastonbury 9.30 Russell Howard's Good News 10.30 Jake Bugg @ Glastonbury 12.00 Family Guy 1.50 American Dad! 2.30 Uncle 4.00 Close
- BBC Four**
- 7.00 Swarm: Nature's Incredible Invasions. 8.00 Robert Plant @ Glastonbury 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.45 Bryan Ferry @ Glastonbury 12.15 Top of the Pops: 1979 12.55 Storyville: Muscle Shoals – The Greatest Recording Studio in the World 2.45 Swarovski: Nature's Incredible Invasions 3.45 Close
- ITV2**
- 11.20 I Wanna Marry "Harry" 12.15 The Only Way Is Marbs 2.00 Film: Honey (2003) 4.00 You've Been Framed and Famous 5.00 You've Been Framed 5.30 Film: Scooby-Doo (2002) 7.15 Film: Johnny English (2003) 9.00 Film: Bridget Jones's Diary (2001) 11.00 Film: White Chicks (2004) 1.15 Film: License to Wed (2007) 2.50 Teleshopping 5.50 ITV2 Nightshift
- ITV4**
- 12.25 Wyliffe 1.45 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.00 Lewis 8.00 Doc Martin 9.00 Foyle's War 11.00 Bomb Girls 12.00 Inspector Morse 2.05 ITV3 Nightshift 2.30 Teleshopping
- ITV**
- 11.20 Greatest World Cup Goals 12.25 Film: The Burbs (1989) 2.25 Film: The Story of Dr Wassell (1944) 5.10 Film: The Battle of Midway (1966) 7.50 Hornblower 10.00 Bendorm 11.00 Film: Buned (2010) 1.00 Film: National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 (1993) 2.40 ITV4 Nightshift 3.00 Teleshopping 3.30 The Store 5.00 Teleshopping
- E4**
- 1.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD 2.00 Rude(ish) Tube 4.00 How I Met Your Mother 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 7.00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 7.30 How I Met Your Mother 9.00 Film: Star Trek: First Contact (1996) 11.15 The Big Bang Theory 11.45 Rude Tube 2012 12.50 2 Broke Girls 1.20 How I Met Your Mother 2.15 The Ricky Gervais Show 4.05 Glee 4.50 Desperate Housewives
- Film4**
- 11.00 40 Guns to Apache Pass (1967) 1.00 Independence Day (1996) 3.45 Baby's Day Out (1994) 5.35 Juniper (2008) 7.15 The Simpsons Movie (2007) 9.00 The Karate Kid (2010) Martial arts drama, with Jaden Smith and Jackie Chan. 11.40 Troll Hunter (2010) 1.45 Don't Look Now (1973) 4.00 Close

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CHOICE**Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar (BBC1, 10.35pm)**

Eric Idle once joked that the Monty Python team would only get back together if Graham Chapman came back from the dead. There's been no sign of a Lazarus-like resurrection from the pipe-smoking sixth member of the team, and yet back in November the comedy group announced a one-off show at London's O2. Demand was so high that more dates were quickly added yet Cleese and co have been at pains to point out that this is not only a reunion – it's also a farewell. The Pythons have decided this will be the last time they'll work together as a group. Alan Yentob catches up with each member to give them the Spanish Inquisition, talking about individual projects.

BBC1

- Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.**
- 6.00 Breakfast.** **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Countryfile. (R) **2.00** Flog It! (R) **2.55** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.40** Points of View. **3.55** Songs of Praise. **4.30** Match of the Day. Group C Winner v Group A Runner-Up (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 7.30** **Countryfile.** Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison are in Lincolnshire, where they meet one of the last surviving members of the Dambusters squadron and takes to the skies in a Lancaster bomber, and she goes searching for a rare orchid and helps take down the sails of an eight-sailed windmill – said to be the only one in existence. Adam Henson goes shopping for a white park bull and John Craven launches the annual photographic competition on a theme of "animal magic". Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
- 8.20** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce and the team pay the first of two visits to Wentworth Woodhouse stately home near Rotherham in South Yorkshire. Items include a mahogany bureau once belonging to the property's owner Earl Fitzwilliam, a delicate glass punch bowl that survived several visits to the air-raid shelter during the Second World War and a box of unpromising-looking bones that turns out to have quite a history. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
- 9.20** **Casually.** Fletch makes a huge sacrifice to save Tess when she is involved in a horrendous train crash. Connie spends her first day as clinical lead, while Ethan and Lily make up. (R)
- 10.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
- 10.35** **Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar.** Alan Yentob catches up with the Monty Python team in the run-up to 10 reunion shows starting on Tuesday at London's O2, the last time the comedy group will perform together.
- 12.05** Film: **And Now for Something Completely Different.** (1971) **1.30** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **2.15** Weatherview. **2.20** BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.00** This Is BBC Two. **6.10** Film: Lucky Jim. (1957) **7.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.15** World Cup Films. **9.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Glastonbury 2014. **1.00** Live Athletics. The British Championships. **4.30** Inspire: The Olympic Journey. A Commonwealth Games special of the magazine series. **5.00** Glastonbury 2014.
- 7.00** **Tropic of Cancer.** Simon Reeve travels through Laos and Vietnam and concludes his trip in Hawaii on the final leg of his journey along the northern tropic. Last in the series. (R)
- 8.00** **The Quest for Bannockburn.** Part one. To mark the 700th anniversary of Robert the Bruce's decisive victory in the First War of Scottish Independence at Bannockburn, Neil Oliver and Tony Pollard attempt to pinpoint the location of Scotland's most iconic battlefield. They are joined by historians, archaeologists and environmental scientists as they set out to gather evidence to chart the events that ended in an overwhelming Scottish victory over Edward II's English forces, helping seal Scotland's future as an independent kingdom.
- 9.00** **A Cabbie Abroad: Canada.** Mason McQueen heads to Igloolit on Baffin Island in the Canadian territory of Nunavut, where he joins a small band of taxi drivers who keep the city on the move in all weathers. The Londoner arrives at the coldest time of year and is put straight to work, facing the most difficult driving conditions he has ever encountered as he takes his life in his hands to battle Arctic storms, icy roads and winds gusting at 70mph. Through his passengers, Mason finds out that the indigenous Inuit people are losing their traditional values and way of life and are plagued by high levels of suicide, homelessness and drug abuse.
- 10.00** **Glastonbury 2014.** Jo Whiley, Mark Radcliffe, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens present coverage of the last day of the festival, with Kasabian scheduled to headline the Pyramid stage.
- 1.00** Sign Zone: **Countryfile.** (R) **1.55** Holby City. (R) **2.55** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. **4.40** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

- Due to World Cup fixtures, schedules are subject to change.**
- 6.00** CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Spooty. (R) **7.20** Digital Farm. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadliest Snakes. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** News. **11.30** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.30** Tipping Point. **1.30** Nature's Newborns. (R) **2.00** Film: Columbus Undercover. (1994) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.40** Midsomer Murders. (R)
- 6.00** **The Chase.** Four celebrity contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on quizmaster the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. (R)
- 6.55** **Regional Programme:** Weather.
- 7.05** ITV News; Weather.
- 7.20** **Celebrity Catchphrase.** Kym Marsh, Steve Pemberton and Rosemary Shrager compete to identify familiar phrases hidden in animated clues to win thousands of pounds for charity. Stephen Mulher hosts. (R)
- 8.00** **FIFA World Cup Live 2014.** Group D Winner v Group C Runner-Up (Kick-off 9.00pm). The fourth match in the last 16 takes place at the Arena Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, and features the top team from England's group. It is possible that one or both of the teams involved tonight have already played one match here, given that it hosted the Group C clash between Ivory Coast and Japan, as well as Italy v Costa Rica in Group D, which was arguably the stronger of the two groups. Of the eight possible teams that could play in this fixture, only three featured in the last 16 in South Africa four years ago, and each experienced contrasting fortunes. In the event of extra-time any penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.
- 11.15** ITV News; Weather.
- 11.30** Film: **Midnight Run.** (1988) Comedy thriller, starring Robert De Niro and Charles Grodin. **1.45** The Store. **2.30** Motorsport UK. **3.20** ITV Nightshift. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show.

CHANNEL 4

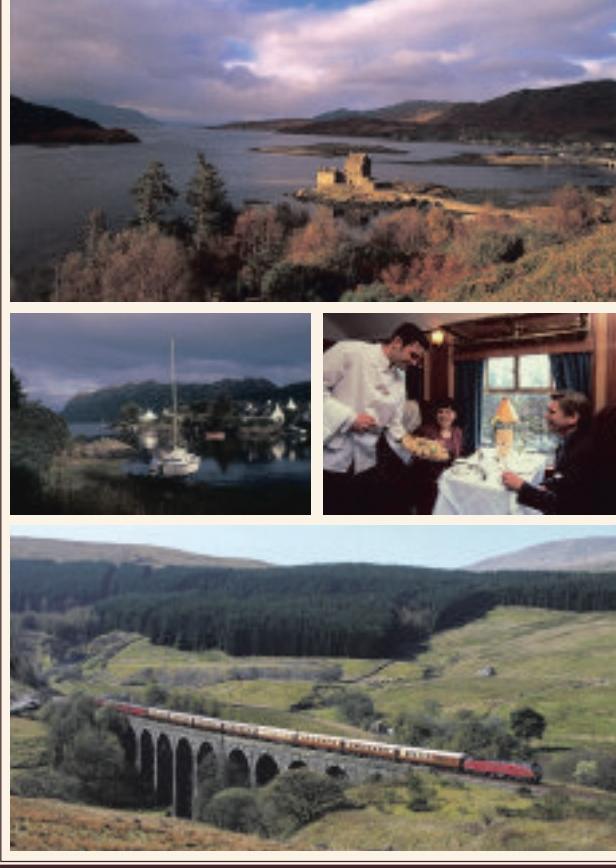
- 6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** British GT Championship. **7.05** Windsor Triathlon. **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (P) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** Film: The Golden Child. (1986) Comedy fantasy adventure, starring Eddie Murphy. **4.45** Deal or No Deal. **5.45** Film: Letters to Juliet. (2010) Romantic drama, starring Amanda Seyfried.
- 7.40** Channel 4 News.
- 8.00** **Dolphins: Born in the Wild.** Joy Reidenberg heads to New Zealand to uncover the secret strategy of dusky dolphins, and shows how marine mammals such as the harbour porpoise have evolved to reproduce in the ocean. Mark Evans visits Mexico to find out why whales travel 12,000 miles to find partners and how calves avoid ruthless predators underwater. The programme also witnesses the birth of a dolphin and reveals why they are born tail first. Last in the series.
- 9.00** Film: **The King's Speech.** (2010) The younger son of George V struggles to cope with an uncontrollable stammer, prompting his wife to enlist the aid of an eccentric Australian speech therapist. The support and friendship of the doctor prove invaluable when a crisis places the repressed prince on the throne, just as the outbreak of the Second World War leaves the country in need of a strong king. Oscar-winning fact-based drama, starring Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helen Bonham Carter and Guy Pearce.
- 11.20** Film: **Rising Sun.** (1993) A cop and a mysterious detective investigate a conspiracy behind a prostitute's murder in a Japanese company's Los Angeles office. Thriller, with Sean Connery and Wesley Snipes.
- 1.35** Film: **The Black Dahlia.** (2006) Crime thriller, starring Josh Hartnett. **3.35** River Cottage Veg Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall looks back at his vegetarian experience. (R) **4.00** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R) **4.05** House My God. Property developers from England take on their Welsh counterparts. Last in the series. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.55** Countdown. With Dictionary Corner guest Jon Culshaw. (R)

CHANNEL 5

- 6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Super Samurais. (R) **10.35** Power Rangers Megazord. (R) **11.10** Access. **11.15** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **12.15** Big Brother. (R) **1.15** Film: What to Expect When You're Expecting. (2012) Comedy drama, starring Cameron Diaz. **3.20** Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart. **5.05** Film: Stepmom. (1998) Drama, starring Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon.
- 7.20** Film: **The Wedding Date.** (2005) A single woman is horrified by the thought of attending her sister's wedding alone, a task made all the more daunting by the presence of her ex-fiance. Taking the bull by the horns, she hires a male escort for the occasion – but her decision has unexpected results. Romantic comedy, starring Debra Messing, Jack Davenport, Dermot Murney and Sarah Parish. Edited for language and sexual content.
- 8.55** **News Weekend.**
- 9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
- 10.00** **Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets.** Conclusion of the two-part countdown of weight-loss methods, with scientists, industry experts and exponents explaining the pros and cons of fat diets and extreme exercise regimens.
- 11.00** **Film: The Invasion.** (2007) A psychiatrist and a doctor investigate the cause of a mysterious epidemic turning humans into zombies. Sci-fi thriller, starring Nicole Kidman, Daniel Craig and Jeremy Northam.
- 12.55** Super Casino. **3.05** Angry Britain: Work Rage. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

- BBC Three**
- 7.00** Ed Sheeran & Sam Smith @ Glastonbury 8.00 Bombay Bicycle Club & The Black Keys @ Glastonbury 9.00 Ellie Goulding @ Glastonbury 10.00 Disclosure @ Glastonbury 11.30 Party Guy 12.15 American Dad! 1.00 Edinburgh Comedy Fest Live 2011 1.55 Murdered by My Boyfriend 2.55 Stacey Dooley: The Truth About Domestic Violence 3.35 Close
- BBC Four**
- 7.00** Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde **8.00** Queen of Country **9.00** Arena: The 50 Year Argument – The New York Review of Books **10.40** Hidden Killers of the Victorian Home **11.40** Dolly Parton: Platinum Blonde **12.40** Queens of Country **1.40** Pop Charts Britannia: 60 Years of the Top 10 **3.10** Sounds of the Eighties **3.40** Close
- ITV2**
- 12.00** America's Got Talent **1.55** You've Been Framed! **2.55** Funniest Ever You've Been Framed! **3.50** Film: Honey (2003) **5.50** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00** Film: Must Love Dogs (2005) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.50** TV Of The Month **11.20** Film: The Matrix (1999) **2.00** Ultimate You've Been Framed **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
- ITV3**
- 11.20** Inspector Morse **1.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Lewis **12.05** Film: Something's Gotta Give (2003) **2.00** William and Mary **3.10** Murder, She Wrote **4.00** 11VV3 Nightscreen **4.25** Emmerdale
- ITV4**
- 11.00** Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.00** BRDC Formula 4 Championship Highlights **7.00** Cycling **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.15** Film: The Island (1980) **1.25** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.15** Cheers **2.45** TV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
- E4**
- 5.00** New Girl **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Addams Family Values (1993) **9.50** The Big Bang Theory **10.20** Ruude Tube 2012 **11.25** How I Met Your Mother **11.55** Rules of Engagement **12.55** The Ricky Gervais Show **1.30** The Cleveland Show **2.45** Being Erica **3.30** Hollywood Film4
- 11.00** Little Indians (1965) **1.00** Charlotte's Web (2006) **2.05** Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **5.10** Home Alone 3 (1997) **7.10** Bedazzled (2000) **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.35** Evil Dead II (1987) **1.15** Hansel and Gretel (2007)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

Hush, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A doctor moves back to his home town with his family in tow, intending to lead a quiet life running his grandfather's medical practice. However, his plans are threatened by an obsessed old flame, who is determined to get him back and will go to any lengths to drive off his wife. Thriller, starring Tori Spelling, Victoria Pratt, Tahmoh Penikett and Susan Hogan. (2005)

TUESDAY

Killer Flood: The Day the Dam Broke, Channel 5, 3.10pm

An architect building a dam resigns from the construction company that employed him, citing poor standards and short-cuts. However, on a return visit, he realises the structure could collapse at any time – and although a nearby town seems doomed to a watery grave, he struggles to convince anyone of the danger they are in. Thriller, starring Joe Lando, Bruce Boxleitner and Michele Greene. (2003)

WEDNESDAY

Hard Target, ITV, 10.35pm

A woman searching for her missing father hires an out-of-work merchant sailor to guide her through the streets of New Orleans, where his martial arts skills are greatly tested in a series of encounters with sadistic hunters of human prey. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme, Yancy Butler, Lance Henriksen and Wilford Brimley. (1993)



We Own the Night, Thursday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY

We Own the Night, ITV, 10.35pm

The manager of a New York nightclub is caught between two worlds – while his brother and father are both highly respected police officers, most of his clientele are gangsters. Despite his best efforts not to get involved, he is forced to choose sides when gang violence escalates and his sibling is targeted by a hitman. Crime drama, starring Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall, Eva Mendes, Alex Vieado, Dominic Colon, Danny Hoch and Oleg Taktarov. (2007)

FRIDAY

Role Models, Channel 4, 12.05am

Two irresponsible salesmen find themselves in trouble with the law after crashing their truck. To avoid jail, they agree to undertake community service looking after a couple of troubled kids. However, it soon seems that jail would have been the easier option. Comedy, starring Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Bobbi J Thompson, Elizabeth Banks, Jane Lynch, Ken Jeong and Ken Marino. (2008)

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Pick of the Week

Old friends get ready to take to the stage

Monty Python's Flying Circus is no more. It has ceased to be. It is an ex-comedy programme.

But five of the six men who made perhaps the most surreal series in the history of British TV – John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Michael Palin, Eric Idle and Terry Jones – are still alive and kicking, and on Tuesday begin a 20-day residency at the O2 in London.

Tickets were like gold dust, with extra dates added to keep the hoards of fans happy who desperately wanted to see their ageing heroes in action one last time. We're promised that even Graham Chapman, who died in 1989, will appear via archive footage on a huge video screen.

It should almost feel as if they've never been away, despite the fact they've all carved out very different careers since their last project, the controversial Meaning of Life in 1983 (although the musical Spamalot was supported by all the Pythons and was based on the film Monty Python and the Holy Grail, it was the brainchild of Idle only).

But why get back together at all?

"Purely financial," admits Palin. "We've had this court case hanging around when one of the producers of The Holy Grail decided he needed a bit more of the cut from Spamalot – and court cases don't come cheap. Something has to push us into it!"

"But the speed at which the tickets sold was astounding to us all. So, there are a lot of friends of Python out there."

As anybody who tuned in to the original show will tell you, it really WAS something completely different. While other programme offered funny walks in Ealing, a member of the Spanish Inquisition known as Cardinal Fang, a dead Norwegian parrot, nun boiling in Doncaster, Hell's Grannies in Teddington and a provocative fish-slapping dance down the docks?

However, Python nearly didn't exist at all. Instead, it could have been called The Toad Elevating Moment or Owl Stretching Time, both of which were rejected by the BBC. But whatever the name, the brand of humour would have remained the same – and no doubt have still gone

on to influence thousands of comedians.

Initially, the series was meant as a vehicle for Cleese and Chapman, who had worked successfully together on The Frost Report. But Cleese wasn't keen on the idea of a two-handed show, and so approached Palin. He, Jones, Idle and Gilliam were supposed to be working together on an ITV series, but when it stalled, he suggested the four of them could join Cleese and Chapman at the BBC – and so Monty Python was born.

Their bizarre form of humour, inspired in part by their mutual love of The Goons on radio and Spike Milligan's TV series Q, was quickly branded 'surreal' by some, although that didn't nearly describe it well enough. And so, a new word was needed – hence the creation of the term 'Pythonic'.

Here, Alan Yentob meets Cleese, Gilliam, Palin, Idle and Jones as they prepare to take to the stage together, 20 years after the Python TV show's demise. He also asks them about their individual projects from the past, present and future.



The Pythons' preparations for their reunion shows, Imagine: Monty Python – And Now for Something Rather Similar, Sunday, BBC1, 10.35pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Cost of Cheap Alcohol: Channel 4 Dispatches

Channel 4, 8pm

Once upon a time, anyone wanting to buy in a substantial amount of cheap alcohol ready for a World Cup barbecue might have gone on a 'booze cruise' to France. Now they're more likely to pop down to the local supermarket, where multipack deals and falling prices mean you can pay as little as 70 pence for a pint of lager – and there are also plenty of bargains in the spirit and cider aisles. And while this may not be great news for the nation's landlords and ferry operators, should the rest of us be concerned as well? Antony Barnett counts the cost of alcohol-related crime, violence, accident and diseases, which is believed to run into billions.

Police Under Pressure

BBC2, 9pm

These are difficult times for most of Britain's police forces as they try to absorb some substantial budget cuts, but as the first in this two-part documentary revealed last week, South Yorkshire Police are facing more challenges than most. Its reputation has been tainted by Hillsborough tragedy, while its crime figures are among the worst in the country – and unless the statistics improve, the force runs the risk of being taken over by government inspectors. With access to officers on the ground, as well as those in charge, the programme looks at how morale has been affected, and also examines the divisions among the senior ranks about how best to turn the force around in just six months.

TUESDAY

Love Your Garden

ITV, 7.30pm

Alan Titchmarsh comes to the aid of a couple who founded a charity to support bereaved families after the loss of their 23-month-old son. Claire and Ian Estwick have a busy schedule fundraising and running their organisation, meaning their large L-shaped garden has become a confused mix of children's play equipment, a neglected greenhouse and overgrown shrubs and trees. Alan and the team set about transforming it into four distinct spaces, featuring a kitchen garden and a tranquil seating area, and show viewers how to tackle a towering leylandii hedge.

WEDNESDAY

This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show

Channel 4, 8pm

They say that fashion takes 20 years to come full circle, with trends reappearing after that two-decade marker, but Dawn O'Porter thinks we shouldn't bother waiting – trawling the country's vintage shops will find us all the unique, beautifully made clothing items we could ever ask for, and set us apart from the crowds. In tonight's episode, Dawn meets Emma from Reading, who loves high-street clothes but has lately



James Corden Does Deal or No Deal, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

THURSDAY

The Honourable Woman

BBC2, 9pm

New series. As a young girl, Nessa Stein witnessed the assassination of her Zionist arms dealer father by the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Now in her thirties, she is at the forefront of the Middle East peace process, but when her company awards a lucrative contract to a Palestinian businessman who is later found dead, she and her brother Ephraim find themselves under the close scrutiny of Whitehall and MI6. Political thriller, written and directed by The Shadow Line creator Hugo Blick, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Stephen Rea, Eve Best, Lindsay Duncan and Andrew Buchan.

Beth Hood, who faked cancer for her own gain. Narrated by Reece Shearsmith.

FRIDAY

James Corden Does Deal or No Deal

Channel 4, 8pm

For those of us on the outside, this show can look like the nuttiest thing since the invention of peanut butter. However, for those playing the game in the studio, it's like life or death as 22 contestants hope to win a fortune from the 22 boxes in front of them. Noel Edmonds is committed as ever, carrying on the Banker façade like a man yearning to win a Bafta for best dramatic performance. It's hard for anyone weaned on Swap Shop and Noel's House Party, not to love Edmonds. He has turned a hit US game show into something very British: cheaper, less glibby than its US counterpart, and as bonkers as a Harry Hill sketch. Would we have it any other way?

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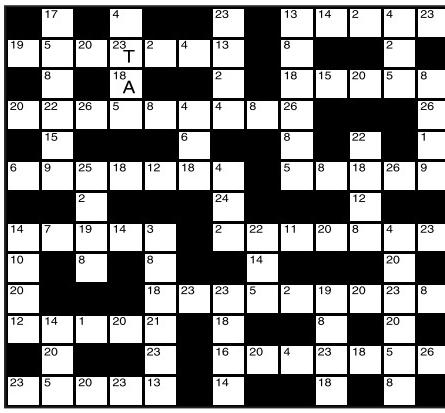
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	T	J	F	Y	N	O	P	S	A	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

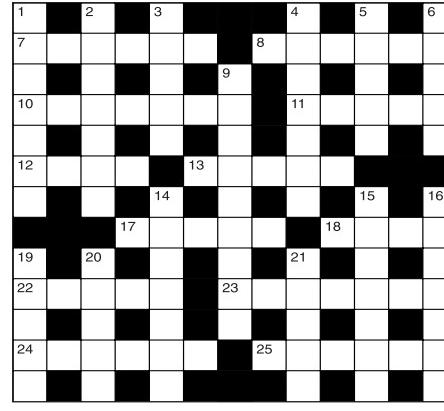
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues: Across

- 7. Demand for expulsion in uproar (6)
- 8. Doctor has fallen for herdsman (6)
- 10. Railway apprentice? (7)
- 11. Compel 100 to go in front (5)
- 12. Wine from Castile (4)
- 13. Throw out, but do not entirely discard (5)
- 17. A prize in the hospital? (5)
- 18. The final one should endure (4)
- 22. Stick to the workers (5)
- 23. Subterfuge to save outrageous charge (7)
- 24. 500 arriving before time at great cost (6)
- 25. Lower sea-bed (6)

Down

- 1. It holds the corresponding evidence (4-3)
- 2. The last secret procedure (7)
- 3. Liable to give public relations officer directions (5)
- 4. Free cap given by way of introduction (7)
- 5. Key material or creeper outside (5)
- 6. Instructions in few words (5)
- 9. Novel knitwear from America (3,6)
- 14. Double the number taken to the pen (7)
- 15. Money from Brussels, for example (7)
- 16. Knock Edward senseless: he's not grown properly (7)
- 19. Incidental remark about a team (5)
- 20. She is absolutely crazy in the morning (5)
- 21. Not yet alert (5)



Quick Clues: Across

- 1. Anger (7)
- 2. Avenge (7)
- 3. Entreat (5)
- 4. Touch (7)
- 5. Lukewarm (5)
- 6. Precipitous (5)
- 9. Tomb (9)
- 14. Unsettled (7)
- 15. Competent (7)
- 16. Give back (7)
- 19. Wed (5)
- 20. Value (5)
- 21. Aquatic animal (5)

Down

Sudoku

1						8		2
2	6		9			4		
3	4			5		8	1	9
5	8			1	9			
8	4		7		3			
3	7					6		
6	5			1	9			
8	7					5		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	7	9	6	3	4	8	2	5
5	2	6	7	9	8	1	4	3
8	3	4	2	5	1	9	6	7
7	4	1	8	2	6	3	5	9
2	8	5	3	4	9	6	7	1
6	9	3	1	7	5	4	8	2
9	6	8	5	1	2	7	3	4
4	5	7	9	6	3	2	1	8
3	1	2	4	8	7	5	9	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC: Across: 1 Cover; 4 Threats; 8 Notable; 9 Trestle; 10 Ugly; 11 Self-will; 13 Drop; 14 Deny; 16 Do better; 17 Take 20 Outer; 21 Apartment; 22 Resisted; 23 Arson; 25 Down; 1 Conducted tour; 26 Voted; 9 Rutherford; 10 Threats; 5 Ratified; 6 April; 7 Satelliteton; 12 Postfree; 13 Debated; 15 Despot; 16 Aunts; 19 Emma; QUIZ: Answer 1: Grant; 4 Lockview 8 Amazing; 9 Salvo; 10 Duty; 11 Impolite; 13 Cant; 14 Rely; 16 Quantify; 17 Hide; 20 Extra; 21 Imitate; 22 Torrent; 23 Dress; Down: 1 Grandiloquent; 2 Await; 3 Trim; 4 Legume; 5 Customer; 6 Jollity; 7 Wholesomeness; 12 Initiate; 13 Chatter; 15 Strict; 18 Image; 19 Kind.

Do you organise events?

Get your event listed on all the important sites and publications including The Guardian Guide, Time Out, The List and local press.

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MON 14 JUL

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5 DAY TOURS MON 14 JUL

Weymouth & Jurassic Coast	£169.95
Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend	£179.95
Torquay	£159.95
Isle of Wight	£159.95
Bournemouth	£179.95
Newquay	£189.95
Eastbourne Glastonbury Hotel	ONLY £139.95

4 DAY TOURS FRI 18 JUL

Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend	£149.95
Isle of Wight	£129.95
Weston-s-Mare	£129.95
Eastbourne	£129.95
Pontins Brean Sands	£119.95

5 DAY TOURS MON 21 JUL

Folkestone & Cruise to Ostend	£189.95
Weston-s-Mare	£169.95
Newquay	£189.95
Isle of Wight	£159.95
Bournemouth	£179.95
Eastbourne	£159.95
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Individually designed and well-presented house



AN individually designed four-bedroomed detached house in Himley Road, Gornal Wood, is for sale through Wakeman Estate Agents at £275,000.

It has an entrance hall, cloakroom, through lounge, dining room, kitchen, four bedrooms, an en-suite shower room, a tandem garage, gardens and parking. In more detail the entrance hall has under-stairs storage and the through lounge has an Adam style fireplace with living flame gas fire. There is a dining room, kitchen with an extensive range of units a built-in cooker and a hob with cooker hood over, fridge and freezer, washing machine and tiled floor. Bedroom one has built-in wardrobes and en suite shower room. Three further bedrooms. The bathroom includes a corner bath. There is a driveway, and the rear garden has a patio and large timber work shop. Contact 01902 885894 www.wakeman-online.co.uk



Detached home is a real charmer



A FINE detached residence of character and charm in an excellent location in Summerhill Road, Coseley, has been refurbished and enhanced throughout. It is for sale through Swinscoe's at £264,950.

Its accommodation comprises entrance hall, lounge with a feature fireplace with log burner, French doors to dining area, a second reception room, guest wc, an open plan dining/family area, traditional country-style breakfast kitchen, utility room, access to a cellar. Upstairs there are four double bedrooms, en-suite family bathroom and shower room. The property is double glazed and has gas central heating. There are gardens and double garage. Contact 01902 672274 or visit www.swinscoes.co.uk



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213 WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON



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- Stunning Five Bedroom Residence EPC Rating F
 - Currently Being Refurbished To A High Standard
 - Large Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen And Study
 - Five Bedrooms, Ensuite, Family Bathroom
 - Viewing Essential
- £345,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
 - Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen, Utility, Cloaks W/c
 - Four Bedrooms Master With En-suite Shower Room plus Family Bathroom
 - Property Benefits From Central Heating and Double Glazing
 - Integral Garage Drive Garage Is The Rear
- £224,950 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional Bay Fronted Link Detached Property EPC Rating C
 - Lounge, Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
 - Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
 - Side Garage Driveway, Rear Garden
- £199,950 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
 - Lounge Kitchen Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
 - Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
 - Side Garage Driveway, Rear Garden
- £185,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
 - Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Ground Floor Bathrooms
 - Three Bedrooms Separate W/c
 - Driveway To Front Large Garden and Rear Garden To The Rear
 - Property Benefits From No Upward Chain Viewing Recommended
- £174,950 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating F
 - Lounge Dining Room Kitchen Ground Floor Bathrooms
 - Three Bedrooms Separate W/c
 - Benefiting From Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
 - Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- £170,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



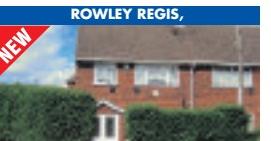
- Traditional Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
 - Two reception Rooms Kitchen and Living Room
 - Three Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Side Garage Drive Front and Rear Gardens
 - Property Benefits From Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing
- £165,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Immaculate Traditional Semi Detached Property EPC Rating D
 - Three Reception Rooms Extended Kitchen and Side Lobby
 - Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
 - Block Paved Driveway Spacious Rear Garden
 - No Upward Chain Internal Viewing Highly Recommended
- £150,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Extended Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
 - Two Reception Rooms Extended Kitchen and Side Lobby
 - Three Bedrooms and Bathroom W/c
 - Off Road Parking To The Front Garden and Garden To The Rear
 - Cul-de-sac Location
- £145,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
 - Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
 - Front and Rear Gardens Detached Garage
- £130,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating E
 - Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
 - Driveway To The Front Large Garden To The Rear
- Offers Over £120,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Well Presented End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
 - Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
 - Three Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Gas Fired Central Heating System Double Glazing
 - Gardens To The Front and Rear
- £115,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
 - Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Downstairs Bathrooms
 - Three Bedrooms Upstairs W/c
 - Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
 - Some Original Features Internal Viewing Recommended
- £110,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Cottage Style End Of Terrace Property EPC Rating D
 - Lounge Kitchen/Dining Room Cloakroom W/c Verandah
 - Two Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
 - Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
 - Internal Inspection Recommended
- £100,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Traditional Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
 - Lounge Kitchen/Dining Room Cloakroom W/c Verandah
 - Two Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
 - Walled Frontage Garden To The Rear
 - Internal Inspection Recommended
- £97,500 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- First Floor Maisonette EPC Rating F
 - Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Double Glazing Night Storage Heating
 - Well Maintained Communal Gardens
 - Cul-de-sac Location Internal Inspection Recommended
- £95,000 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- Extended Ground Floor Flat EPC Rating D
 - Open Plan Living/Dining Room and Kitchen
 - Two Bedrooms Bathrooms W/c
 - Enclosed Rear Garden
 - Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation
- £79,950 QUINTON 0121 421 7766



- 53 Northfield Road, Halesowen, B7 0ST. We are acting in the sale of the above property and have received an offer of £125,500. Any interested party must submit any higher offer in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place. EPC rating D. Your Move, 156 High Street, Halesowen, B7 9RN. 0121 426 2740.
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- Semi-detached bungalow
 - Two bedrooms, bathroom, lounge, fitted kitchen.
 - Side garage
 - Gas boiler heating radiators.
- EPC = D
Offers in the region of £165,000



- Three bedroom detached house
 - Popular residential location
 - Two reception rooms
 - Kitchen with lean-to conservatory
 - Garage and driveway parking.
 - Good sized garden.
 - Vacant possession available.
 - Gas boiler heating radiators.
 - In need of some improvement but full of potential. EPC = C
- Offers in the region of £235,000



- Ideal first purchase
 - Tastefully presented accommodation
 - Fitted kitchen/dining room
 - Through lounge
 - Three bedrooms * Bathroom
 - Enclosed gardens
 - Gas boiler heating radiators
 - Internal inspection recommended
- EPC = C
Offers in the region of £125,000



- Plot 3 George Road
 - 1 Link detached bungalow
 - Two bedrooms * Two parking spaces
 - L Shaped lounge/dining area
 - Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances * Luxury bathroom with shower cubicle * Gas boiler heating radiators * Fitted Carpets * EPC = C
- £180,000



- Max Road
 - Semi Detached
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Through Living Room
 - Conservatory
 - Kitchen/Breakfast Room
 - Downstairs WC
 - Rear Garden and Garage
- EPC=tbc
Offers in the region of £174,950



- Middlefield Avenue
 - Semi Detached House
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Kitchen/Dining Room
 - Garage
 - Good Sized Rear Garden
 - In need of some upgrading
- EPC = D
Offers in the region of £144,950



- Semi detached house
 - Two reception rooms
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Garage
- EPC = D
£139,950



- Traditional Style Semi Detached
 - Three Bedrooms
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Kitchen
 - Off Road Parking
 - In need of general modernisation and improvement.
- EPC = E
£162,000



- Detached workshop/garage
 - Internal floor area 63.43 sq.m. (682 sq.ft.)
 - Two roller shutter doors
 - Gated yard at side. EPC = tbc
- Offers in the region of £100,000



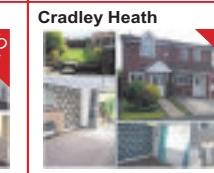
- 292 Hagley Road West
 - EPC = (Shop)
 - Lock-up shop used as a barbers
 - Self-contained well appointed living accommodation
 - Lounge, kitchen, bedroom with en-suite shower room
 - Enclosed paved garden area.
 - Viewing by appointment through Agents.
- Offers in the region of £150,000



- Development Site at Rear Of 6 Shrubbery Avenue
 - An opportunity to acquire a residential development site with planning approval for four detached houses and one detached bungalow in mature residential locality and having an area of 0.69 acres, 0.28 hectares.
 - MUST VIEW to appreciate * EPC=D
- Offers in the region of £275,000



- Flat Above 158 Halesowen Road
 - Spacious 1st floor flat
 - Large double bedroom with wardrobe
 - ** SECURE GATED CAR PARK**
 - Neutral decoration & DG windows
 - Neutral carpets/floor coverings
 - MUST VIEW to appreciate * EPC=D
- £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



- 10 Bramble Close
 - 2 bed house on popular development
 - Contemporary decoration * Kitchen with cooker & fridge/freezer (washing machine can be provided if required)
 - Modern bathroom suite * DG windows, GCH & alarm * Parking for 3 vehicles
 - Attractive garden * EPC=C
 - Monthly rent of £550+ application fee
- £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.



- Beautiful 3 bedroom house
 - Kitchen/dining room with appliances
 - Bathroom with shower
 - Side garage, DG windows, Gas CH
 - Attractive low maintenance garden
 - Neutral decoration
 - Popular quiet location * EPC=D
- £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.

Five bedoomed home has views of woods



AN OUTSTANDING five bedroomed detached house with a gated entrance in Harborne Road, Bearwood, has views of Warley Woods.

With transport links into Birmingham city centre, it is for sale through We Love Your Postcode at £399,950. It has electric gates into a large drive, garage, hallway, spacious lounge with feature fireplace and French doors to conservatory and two-level garden. There is a dining room and traditional kitchen plus downstairs WC. Upstairs are four bedrooms, a bathroom, master bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and en suite. Call 0121 544 9595 or visit www.loveyourpostcode.co.uk



Impressive bungalow with a snooker room



AN impressive four bedroomed bungalow in Bilston Lane, Willenhall, is a unique property. Extended and adapted by its current owners, it is for sale through L&S Prestige at £319,995.

With double glazing and gas central heating it has a porch, hallway, 24ft lounge, a dining room, impressive kitchen/diner, four double bedrooms, a luxury family bathroom, inner hall, separate WC, 25ft snooker/games room, brick workshop, secure parking for multiple vehicles and a garden.

The lounge has an ornate feature fireplace and glazed French doors through to the dining room.

The kitchen has integrated double oven, gas hob with extractor fan over, integrated dishwasher, fridge and freezer, and breakfast bar.

Contact 01902 606595 or visit the website www.prestige-estatesuk.com



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NEW

ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue £675 pcm - Fees Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mock Tudor style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs WC, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: B



NEW

HALESOWEN, Linton Close £625 pcm - Fees Newly refurbished 3 bedroom semi-detached house in a quiet cul de sac position close to shops & major bus route having lounge, fitted kitchen, downstairs WC, 3 good size bedrooms and bathroom with shower, gas central heating, garage and rear garden. A lovely family home. Available early July. EPC: D



NEW

BEARWOOD, St Marys Road £615 pcm - Fees A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



NEW

HALESOWEN, Sanderson Place £600 pcm - Fees Luxury living in Hayley Green. A superb 1st floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



NEW

HALESOWEN, Newton Court £595 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A recently converted 3 bedroom 2nd floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



NEW

ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive £595 pcm - Fees An unfurnished or part furnished traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached house in a popular location. This house features a lovely entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, dining room, small kitchen, upstairs bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



NEW

MERRY HILL, Columbus Avenue £575 pcm - Fees Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and transport links. This fabulous 2nd floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite and a double & 1 large single bedroom, dual aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, large loft area, allocated parking (parking permit required). EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Beecher Road £550 pcm - Fees A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



NEW

ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court £550 pcm - Fees Beautifully presented and not to be missed. This new build ground floor apartment is a stone's throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and features 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Malt Mill Lane £530 pcm - Fees

A superb fully re-furbished traditional terraced house. Within easy reach of Blackheath and a short drive from Halesowen and the M5. This home features 2 large reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazing. A must see property! EPC: C



WORDSLEY

Cooknell Drive £525 pcm - Fees Located in the centre of Wordsley and ideal for local buses to Stourbridge and Merry Hill. Features gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted dining kitchen, 2 bedrooms, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, house bathroom, rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: C



NEW

NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf £525 pcm - Fees A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Greenhill Road £525 pcm - Fees Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This fantastic 2 double bedroom terraced house close to Blackheath Town Centre, M5 J2 and bus links, featuring 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen with appliances, utility room and WC, upstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. EPC: C



DUDLEY,

Gammie Street £495 pcm - Fees Fees Located for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property is in the process of being painted and updated with a brand new combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



CRADLEY HEATH,

Luanne Close £485 pcm - Fees This lovely street furnished 2nd floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprises of 2 bedrooms, 1 double bedroom, lounge, brown leather 'L' shape sofa and arm chair, fitted kitchen with small fridge, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, and communal garden. EPC: B



NEW

HALESOWEN, Stour Court £475 pcm - Fees Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood this is well kept 1st floor apartment situated in a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in cooker and hob, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close £475 pcm - Fees Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This 2 bedroom apartment is in a quiet cul de sac and features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B



NEW

ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road £450 pcm - Fees Not to be missed is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own private garden this is a bright and airy property. Inside this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. EPC: C



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street £450 pcm - Fees 1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An unfurnished 3rd floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local train station. The property features; living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: TBC



STOURBRIDGE,

Clifton Street £450 pcm - Fees A stunning apartment set in the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Ideal for the town centre and transport links. The property features; a great size lounge, new kitchen, new bathroom, 1 double bedroom, off road parking, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH,

Halesowen Road £400 pcm - Fees This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D

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Drivetime



Jeep sales continue to climb

Proof of Jeep's rediscovered, but continued, popularity in the UK is illustrated in today's new car registration figures for May.

The legendary 4x4 manufacturer registered 279 sales last month, the ninth consecutive monthly sales climb, and up 218 per cent when compared with the same period last year.

The largest model in the current Jeep range, Grand Cherokee, performed exceptionally well again, registering 184 sales – an increase of 207 per cent over May 2013, according to figures supplied by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Clues as to how Jeep customers are funding their new purchases are given by Grand Cherokee finance figures,

which reveal a 450 per cent rise in the number of people choosing this method – drivers clearly seeing the benefit of current zero per cent finance and three years' free servicing offers.

All this comes just as Jeep prepares to launch its new Cherokee mid-size SUV in the UK. The car, available in two- or four-wheel drive, with 140hp and 170hp diesel engines and with the choice of six-speed manual or nine-speed automatic transmission, goes on sale from June 9, 2014.

"The sales figures are fantastic news, not only for the Grand Cherokee, but for the Jeep brand as a whole," says Damien Daily, head of brand, Jeep UK.

The Jeep Cherokee range starts at £25,495 (OTR) for the 2.0 Longitude 140 six-speed manual, rising to £35,695 (OTR) for the 2.0 Limited 170 nine-speed automatic 4x4.

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Models shown: Alto 1.0 SZ4 available at £7,999 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,600 (metallic paint available at £399). Splash 1.2 SZ4 available at £9,899 on the road, includes customer saving of £1,980 (metallic paint available at £415). Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr available at £11,415 on the road, includes customer saving of £2,284 (metallic paint available at £430). Alto, Splash and Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 40.9 (6.9) to 55.4 (5.1), extra urban from 56.5 (6.0) to 78.5 (3.6), combined from 49.6 (5.7) to 67.3 (4.2). Official CO₂ emissions from 131 g/km to 109 g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are available on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. *VAT free offer on Alto, Splash and Swift range: Alto 1.0 SZ available from £5,999, including customer saving of £1,200 to Alto 1.0 SZ4 A/T. Splash 1.0 SZ2 available at £7,999, including customer saving of £1,600 to Splash 1.2 SZ4 A/T available at £10,645 including a customer saving of £2,127 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £7,199 (SZ) and £10,349 (SZ4 A/T). Swift 1.2 SZ2 5dr available at £8,999, including a customer saving of £1,800 to Swift 1.2 SZ4 5dr 4x4 available at £13,116 including customer saving of £2,623 equivalent to VAT amount of previous on the road price of £10,799 (SZ2 5dr) and £15,739 (SZ4 5dr 4x4). VAT Free offer excludes Swift Sport and Swift Sport SZ-R. VAT equivalent reduction is not available on vehicle options or accessories. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. Offer subject to availability for vehicles privately registered between 1st April 2014 to 30th June 2014 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.

Search/SuzukiCarsUK



Drivetime



Help to spot used car faults

In a new survey by HPI, the provider of www.hpicheck.com, 73 per cent of people said they have the confidence to conduct their own mechanical inspection when checking out a potential used car purchase.

However, warns HPI, the harsh reality is that around four out of five used cars sold privately have at least one fault, with an average rectification cost of £225.

For just £99, an HPI Inspection will give buyers peace of mind that the car they are looking to buy will be checked by a mechanical expert.

What's more, the HPI Inspection can further reduce the stress out of bagging a bargain by negotiating the price with the seller to ensure the buyer doesn't pay over the odds.

Senior consumer services manager at www.hpicheck.com, Shane Teskey, says: "A surprisingly 23 per cent of people we surveyed admitted to having complete faith in the seller when they bought their last car, and therefore, felt an independent inspection wasn't necessary."

"Shiny paintwork and a bargain price can hide a multitude of sins, from minor problems, which could impact the value of the vehicle and lead to mounting repair costs, to major mechanical faults that pose a danger.

"We think it's better to be safe than

sorry. Don't gamble with your money and your safety by buying a vehicle without having an expert cast their eye over it first."

Unlike similar services available, the HPI Inspection can be tailor-made depending on the car buyer's needs. All inspections are conducted by a qualified engineer, who can also negotiate the price of the vehicle based on what they find. By checking over 200 individual items on a car, HPI's engineers are helping consumers choose a vehicle that's safe and that won't cost them an arm and a leg in future repairs.

Shane Teskey adds, "An HPI Inspection is easy and hassle free and could save used car buyers thousands of pounds by helping them avoid a banger dressed up as a bargain."

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Drivetime



Marking 30th anniversary

BMW'S popular M5 performance saloon has reached an important milestone – it's 30 years old.

And to celebrate, the German car maker has unveiled a limited edition model boasting more power than any previous M5.

Branded the M5 30 Jahre Edition, this limited run '30 Years' version packs 600 horsepower – 40 more than the standard car. Furthermore, it can sprint from zero to 62mph in a lightning fast 3.9 seconds.

This special anniversary model sports heavily from the Competition package M5 variant, itself a more fo-

cused version of the base car thanks to a raft of upgrades such as tweaks to the suspension, transmission and steering.

And like the car, you'll have to be quick if you're interested, as BMW is producing only 300 '30 Year' M5s, with only 30 slated for the UK priced at £91,890.

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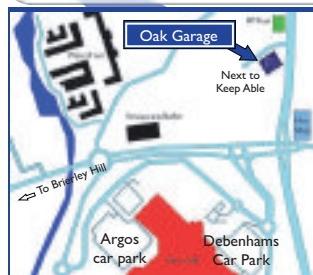
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George bowl out league champs

Warwick & Worcester
Premier Division 1
The George 242
The Greville 180

THE first team put in a terrific performance to defeat current league champions The Greville by 62 shots.

Wins by Jamie Dunn (21-6) and Mick McGuinness (21-16) put The George in front at the start. The middle four increased the lead to 42 shots with Shane Day (21-9), Steve Darling (21-13), Paul Hemming (21-14) & Elliot McGuinness (21-16) all winning. The back four of Phil Clinton (21-6), Steve Dicken (21-20), Ivan Smout & Marc Wilson (both 21-19) completed a fine day for The George.

South Staffs Premier
Division

The George 236
Short Heath 183

The second team had nine winners in a 53-shot win against Short Heath. The best for The George were Stewart Meddings (21-7) and Peter Hayne (21-10).

Warwick & Worcester
Alliance Division 2

The George 230
Royal Oak 195

The third team defeated league leaders Royal Oak by 35 shots. Paul Rose (21-3) and Liam Hickman (21-11) doing the damage.

Winning draw is enough

Eastnor 2nd XI 153
Stourbridge 2nd XI 184

Stourbridge winning draw
Batting first Stourbridge 2nd XI failed to capitalise on a sound start by their opening pair Ryan Willetts and Nabeel Ali.

Willetts took the lead by carving out 69 when he was bowled by Mohammed Munir. His partner Ali was caught off Mohammed Asim Ibrar for 29.

Next highest score to Willets was by tailender Irfan Ahmad who remained not out on 31 batting at nine. Munir helped himself to five wickets for 26 off 13 overs. Stour's effort was foiled by the resistance from Jamie Onions (36) and No.11 Mohammed Asim Ibrar(1).

Wolves suffer first defeat on home patch

MISFIRING Wolverhampton slumped to their first home defeat of the season at the hands of table-toppers King's Lynn.

A spectacular performance from Tai Woffinden was not enough to prevent his side from slipping to a 53-37 loss on a disappointing night.

The world champion was in inspired form fresh off the back of his British Final win last week, storming to four race wins from his five outings.

Yet he received minimal support from the remainder of the side, as Peter Adams' men were simply outclassed by a rampant

Speedway

King's Lynn. Wolves fought hard early on, with two wins for Woffinden backed up by impressive victories for Ricky Wells and Ty Proctor to give them a two point lead after five heats.

However, the same Proctor-Wells partnership conceded two 5-1s in quick succession to see the hosts fall six behind.

A classy win for Woffinden in heat ten moved them back within four and set up a nervy finale. But Wolves collapsed late on

- conceding three consecutive 5-1s to leave them in disarray.

Woffinden did claim a classy win in heat 15 to help limit the damage, but it was too little too late as his side slipped to defeat.

Ty Proctor and Ricky Wells both faded after bright starts, whilst Swede Jacob Thorsell proved solid yet unspectacular.

Meanwhile, Polish hotshot Piotr Pawlicki experienced a rare off night having previously been in blistering form.

He did push Stars No.1 Niels-Kristian Iversen hard in perhaps the race of the night before being forced to settle for sec-

ond place in heat 11. But he also seized an engine in his second ride and eventually managed only three points leaving Woffinden short of support from the other heat-leader berths.

Wolverhampton: Tai Woffinden 13, Ricky Wells 6+1, Jacob Thorsell 6, Ty Proctor 4, Piotr Pawlicki 3, Tom Perry 3, Joe Jacobs 2+1.

King's Lynn: Lewis Blackbird 12+2, Niels-Kristian Iversen 10+1, Rory Schlein 10+1, Max Fricke 8+2, Robert Lambert 6+1, Kenneth Bjerre 5+1, Lewis Rose 2+1.

Baggies have an eye on Moses

THE Baggies are keeping tabs on Nigeria wingerman Moses, who could be loaned out by Chelsea for a second successive season.

Albion used just one of their two domestic loans last season to sign Scott Sinclair, who endured a nightmare stay at The Hawthorns.

But Irvine still believes the loan market might be useful later in the summer transfer window and that could bring Moses into the club's thinking.

Any serious move by the Baggies is unlikely to happen for several weeks, with Chelsea considering the prospect of selling Moses permanently.

And an auction for the 23-year-old could take him out of the Baggies' price range. But the club would be interested in entering the bidding if Moses becomes available on loan or for a smaller fee.

They tried to sign him in 2010 from Crystal Palace but he opted to join Wigan instead. And they enquired again last summer before he moved on loan to Liverpool, where he found his first-team chances severely limited.

Irvine said: "It will be a busy few weeks in terms of trying to identify and secure a few targets."

Albion eye Snodgrass as bid fails

ALBION are considering a bid for £6m-rated Norwich midfielder Robert Snodgrass after they rejected a second offer from Derby for wantaway George Thorne.

The Baggies are keeping tabs on Snodgrass amid rumours that the Scotland international will leave Carrow Road this summer.

They have again told the Rams that Thorne is not for sale after turning down a bid of more than £1m on Monday night.

Reports the Baggies have entered talks with the Canaries over a deal for Snodgrass are premature, with Hawthorns officials yet to make their interest official. But the 26-year-old Glasgow is on the club's summer watchlist.

Lions lining up with new coaching team

STOURBRIDGE Lions rugby club have a new coaching team driving them forward as the players get back for pre-season training next Tuesday.

Jon Tibbets is now the new head coach and will be supported by player coach Sam Robinson as they seek to take the team forward into the coming season.

Tibbets has come through the ranks after having been the club's forward coach for the past two seasons and takes over from Ian Strangward who stepped down at the end of last season after six successful years in charge.

Former prop Tibbets, played for the Lions when the club was first formed before moving up to the semi-professional Stourbridge Saxons who he keen to keep ties with.

He said: "I am extremely happy to be given the opportunity to help the club move forward and it is a challenge that I am very much look forward to."

When asked if anything would be different, Tibbets said: "I have some ideas that I want to apply, but my two main aims are to improve the boys, make them better rugby players and utilise the assets that we have with the Saxons; getting more involved with them and have them help us."

Tibbets view is supported and backed by Director of Rugby at the club Neil Mitchell.

That connection is now stronger than ever following the signing of Sam Robinson, who has been the Saxons starting No. 10 for the

Rugby

past 10 years.

Due to work commitments Sam has decided he would like to help the amateur side of the club develop through coaching but is also keen not to hang his boots up yet.

Robinson said: "I am excited working with the players who have a lot of potential but just need a bit more guidance in a few areas and hopefully I can help with this and can't wait to see what, as a team, we have to offer."

He added: "I haven't really seen any of the boys play so it will provide a nice blank slate for everyone, everything is to train for during pre-season."

"Hopefully I am going to bring a bit of freshness and variety, simply as a new face with some different views of how to play the game."

The Lions pre-season is open for all players of all abilities and new faces are always welcome.

Anyone who is interested in joining the club should contact captain Stuart Doolittle 07730 203403 or go to the club's website for more details about getting involved.

High fives as 'Brazil' snatch final victory



It was celebration time for the 'Brazil' team - Lift & Engineering Services Ltd

THIS was the World Cup - but local, as the second annual five-a-side Black Country Chamber football competition took place at the Halesowen pitches of Chamber member Lucozade Powerleague.

And eventually it was 'Brazil' who took the honours.

There was a strong World Cup flavour as the 20 teams taking part were all drawn to represent a country taking part in this year's World

Cup. The teams battled through the knockout games with the top two from each group progressing to the quarter finals.

Only two teams could make it to the final and on this occasion it was Brazil (Lift & Engineering Services Ltd) and Algeria (Birmingham Metropolitan College).

With the game tied at 3-3 going into the final minutes and with the next goal surely deciding the winner

it was Brazil who held their nerve to score as they managed to snatch a narrow 4-3 victory.

Steve "Scorlari" Smith - Team Manager for "Brazil", aka Lift & Engineering Services Ltd, who had entered three teams into the competition said "We all really enjoyed the evening and will certainly aim to be back next year to defend our trophies. It was a great team building exercise."



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US pair in frame to snap up Villa

A VILLA buy-out is back on the cards amid news that two more American billionaires have discussed the project with Randy Lerner. The US financiers Josh Harris and David Blitzer have a history in buying out and then reviving "distressed" sports businesses, and are now reckoned to be looking at a takeover of Villa.

They are the latest in a growing number of names being linked to the club since Randy Lerner formally declared his intention to sell.

The news will be treated with caution by Villa fans who have now grown accustomed to hearing the club linked with fanciful investment projects which fail to materialise.

But Harris and Blitzer are business contacts of Lerner and reports from the States are adamant an investment has been discussed.

The pair have been leading figures in sport projects as well as having a lucrative stake in the American Idol TV series.

Separate investment groups, of which Harris is a partner, bought out NBA side Philadelphia 76ers for \$280m in 2011 and NHL franchise New Jersey Devils for \$320m last year. Both are recovering from crises which led to the takeovers.

Smith looking for firepower

DEAN SMITH is continuing his hunt for more firepower after signing Tom Bradshaw - with Walsall braced for another possible Will Grigg cash boost.

On Monday, Bradshaw became the first new face on the Saddlers forward line this summer when he penned a two-year deal at the Banks's Stadium.

The 21-year-old, a former Wales Under-21 international, rejected an offer to stay at Shrewsbury and the deal went through after the clubs agreed a compensation package.

It is the second time in a fortnight the Saddlers have paid a "fee" for a player, after paying promising goalkeeper Craig MacGillivray from non-league Harrogate Town. And Smith could yet see his coffers boosted further following reports Grigg could be on the move to Bristol City.

Eastnor take Stour down to the wire

Stourbridge 1st XI 250
Eastnor 1st XI 253-6

EASTNOR 1st XI dealt an unexpected blow to the hopes of Stourbridge Firsts climbing up the Birmingham and District Premier league ladder.

They beat the home side by six wickets in a match that went to the wire. Eastnor put Stour in on a good batting track and faced a challenging total.

Stour's openers Alex Bingham (20) and Steve Game (14) were both dismissed by Sajid Ali. The mantle was then taken up by the skipper Richard Bradley and the over-

Cricket

seas star Aduy Alexander from the 18th over.

They took the score from 48-2 to 148-3 when Bradley nicked up behind off Tareq Jamil with 15 overs remaining.

Thoughts of accelerating the run rate receded as Eastnor took the wickets of Josh Banks and Matt Bradley in quick succession.

Banks fell to Shameer Ahmed for nine and Matt Bradley LBW for two with 47 of the 55 overs used up. Alexander and Jitesh

Jivan-Patel took the score past the 200 and regained some of the initiative.

Alexander was caught on 100 taking the Stour score to 236 in the 53rd over off the bowling of Atiq Ur Rehman.

He had batted for two and half hours, posted 124 fours and reached the ton off 109 balls. Patel (35) and Greg Jones (4) remained not out. Sajid Ali ended with 3-72 off his full 17 over spell.

In Eastnor's knock pace man Ali Shah struck the first blow deceiving Andrew Fisher caught for 12. From the other end Matt Bradley had Sunil Rahi brilliantly

caught in the gully for 11. Stour was on top with the opposition two down for 29 off 6 overs.

When Arshad Hussain unfortunately retired hurt Eastnor was left with a mountain to climb. No.4 Atiq Ur Rehman and No.5 Faisal Khalid formed a stubborn partnership taking the score to 119.

They resisted all that Stour threw at them until finally Jitesh Jivan-Patel had Khalid caught in the covers for 44 in the 30th over. It was Alexander who took the wicket of Rehman caught on the boundary for 96 taking his team to a score of 211.

I decide transfers – Irvine

ALBION'S new boss Alan Irvine insisted he will decide which players sign for Albion.

The Scot is trawling through lists of possible transfer targets drawn up by scouts and narrowed down by new technical director Terry Burton.

But despite the presence of Burton and former sporting and technical director Richard Garlick at the training ground, Irvine insists he will have the final say.

Albion have already snapped up eye-catching free transfers Craig Gardner and former Wolves centre-half Joleon Lescott.

"There wouldn't be a situation where a player came in that I didn't want," said Irvine.

"Clearly there will be players who are out of our reach financially or in terms of contracts or where they want to play."

"But in terms of the players who are in our reach, it wouldn't make sense for them to come in without me rubber-stamping it."

Albion used just one of their two domestic loans last season to sign Scott Sinclair, who endured a nightmare stay.

Office experts to sponsor shirts

OFFICE technology specialists Altodigital will be sponsoring Wolves' shirts for the first Club Legends Cup at the LG Arena on Saturday July 12.

The indoor football tournament will feature former legends from Midlands football teaming up to raise money for Birmingham charity Cure Leukaemia.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, June 26

Knockout win as Heathens storm into semis



Max Clegg at the front during the clash with arch rivals Mildenhall. Pictures: John Hipkiss

IN-FORM Cradley stormed into the semi-final of the Knockout Cup as they thrashed arch-rivals Mildenhall 59-33 at Monmore Green.

Already carrying a 10-point lead following victory at West Row, the flying Heathens cruised into the next round. They went through 108-72 on aggregate. Fans' favourite Tom Perry struck a magnificent maximum to lead them to a comfortable win. It was another excellent all-around

team performance as they continue to dominate speedway's third tier in 2014.

Perry was in sublime form at reserve, blasting round Wolves colleague and Mildenhall No.1 Joe Jacobs in heat 11 to snuff out the visitors' second tactical ride.

Their first attempt at double points had also been nullified in spectacular fashion as Max Clegg stormed around Josh Bates to win

heat nine. Having landed back-to-back 5-1s in heats seven and eight and then seen off two tactical rides, Cradley sealed aggregate victory early on before wrapping up a resounding win on the night. With Steve Worrall, Perry, Clegg and Williamson all recording big scores plus Danny Phillips, Nathan Greaves and Paul Starkes adding useful contributions the Heathens again had strength throughout.

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